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The Pocahontas Commentator

An Interpretive Guide to Local Events
Published Every Once In a While by A Local Citizen, In the Spirit of Thomas Paine
Local Analysis, Commentary, Humor, Sarcasm, Wise Advice, Cynical Comments and Predictions
Now including the many voices from the Etater Forum



STUDWELL TATER'S BACK



The missing tater has returned. The Pocahontas Commentator is again complete. Its hefty head writer is now pounding the keyboard. Studwell Tater aka Norman Alderman made an unexpected detour via death's door but thanks to the grace of God he has returned to publish Pocahontas County's Worst Newspaper, the Commentator

On Aug 9th he awoke to a pounding headache which took him to his knees and onto the floor of his home. Statx was called and he was choppered to Ruby Memorial where he was operated on for two bleeding arteries. They were sealed off and a circular coil was inserted inside his skull to drain off excess fluid.

What followed was 42 days of lying on his back in Ruby and Healthsouth (Rehab.) His muscles weakened to the point that he could barely turnover. His dear wife remained at his side the entire time. Friends and neighbors from Pocahontas County, etc. make a faithful procession to visit the sickened tater. Hundreds sent cards and/or called.

The prognosis is good. If he can survive his wife's chauffeuring and 24/7 supervision, the Commentator editor will be back on the scene full time. He is currently in rehab therapy at Seneca Trails Rehab located at the end of the bridge in Marlinton.

Trolling and Hijacking Websites

The E-tater has been hijacked several times in the past few months. Due to problems of losing the complete Forum, we have been concentrating more on troubleshooting the problem than rebuilding the site. This has taken us several months and cost myself and Moderator hundreds of hours of grief. However there is light at the end of the tunnel. Finally after being Hijacked over and over again we have figured out the problem.

There is a bug in Bravenets software that under certain conditions while we are editing the forum, allows the whole forum to be hijacked and deleted. We are not going to share what we have discovered for obvious reasons, However a full detailed report was sent to Bravenet for review. These hijackings turned out to be a good thing.

Anytime software bugs can be figured out by users and help the provider of the programs troubleshoot their software, this helps them provide a more stable and secure program. In this case our detailed report to Bravenet helped them re-create the conditions that this was happening. This in turn helped their software people understand what was causing the bug and help them in correcting the problem. These problems are usually easily corrected fairly quickly. In this case our information was detailed enough that they corrected their software

in just a couple days.

The problem we have discovered will not stop our Hijackers from still posting their threads. We will still have to delete them as they posts.

However with the software corrected, We now no longer have to worry about the forum being compromised, while we are trying to deal with these types of users.

With that all said lets talk about Internet Trolling. What is an Internet Troll?

This is a person who delights in sowing discord on the internet. They often try to start arguments to upset people. Trolls see internet communication services as a convenient venues for their bizarre game.

For some reason, they don't "get" that they are hurting real people. To them, other internet users are not quite human but are a kind of digital abstract. As a result, they feel no sorrow what so ever for the pain they inflict. Indeed the greater the suffering they cause, the greater their achievement (as they see it). At the moment the anonymity of the net allows trolls to flourish. Trolls are usually utterly impervious to criticism (constructive or otherwise). Most Trolls will not negotiate, feel shame or compassion, and are normally unwilling to reason with. Most types of Trolls do not

IT WAS SOOOOOOOOOOOOOO HOT YESTERDAY....

All the corn started popping and flying through the air.
The cows thought it was snowing, and they froze to death..... : (

The potatoes cook underground and all you have to do to have lunch is to pull one out and add butter, salt and pepper WHEEEEEEEEE!!!!!!

Farmers are feeding their chickens crushed ice to keep them from laying hard boiled eggs..... :

The cows are giving evaporated milk.

The trees are whistlin' for the dogs.

Even the sun is looking for shade.

The birds had to pick up the worms with potholders.

I saw a dog chasing a cat and they were walkin'.

I saw a fire hydrant begging for a dog to pee on it

CAMPBELL SOUP CO. has changed the directions on its cans to, "just pour and eat".

Water in public swimming pools is evaporating so fast that the children are being encouraged to swim in the deep end and keep ignoring the, "no peeing" rule.

feel they are bound by the rules of courtesy or social responsibility.

Our Hijacker is a type of Troll that enjoys people getting upset over his or her inappropriate postings. There is several types of trolls which you can read about by searching for Internet Trolls. Another type Troll is a person or a group of persons that get together and go into a forum as different individuals on purpose that do not agree with the purpose of the forum, or the group that supports the forum. This all being said we have several other types of trolls that do not like what e-tater stands for and will go to great lengths to change the mood of the forum.

Norman's main purpose to create e-tater was to collect information to share on elected officials beliefs and their conduct. This was a huge success. In fact it was such a success that it became one of the most used Internet Services within the county. As time went on everyone in the county was interested in what it was all about and it grew into a community gathering place to exchange gossip and stories. It also became a gathering place for the elected officials and others that were being talked about, to log in a see what was being said about them.

Human beings are a funny bunch when talked about or exposed in a way they do not want others to share. Forums with this type of atmosphere helps to create Trolls, even when they don't realize that is what they have become. They will log in and accuse the providers of information of lying and then start threads to turn the readers into believing that the original poster is really the one that is lying or needs exposed. This happens all the time on e-tater. We even Troll each other at times, but the point

is that a real Internet Troll's intentions, is to create a false atmosphere in a way to get the users of the forum into participating and supporting them.

These types of actions can be handled by monitoring the site, and having consequences to those participating. On E-tater this is done by the staff of Moderators, Norman and his wife Carol in the form of editing or deleting the threads concerned. This makes the posters of the threads mad usually 99% of the time. One should realize that things seen when logged in as an Administrator are more detailed to the Administrators than the forums regular users. Having access to addresses of the users computers, their location, and seeing multiple personalities puts a whole different perspective on the intentions of the posters. This is why deleted posts may not make sense to the average user, but make sense to those monitoring the site. With that in mind, our reasons for deleting threads has nothing to do with trying to hide anything as some Trolls may want you to believe. Some Trolls will even make claims that you have done things that you have not just to make you support the purpose behind their posts.

E-tater also does not like to see our participants get mad and leave the site because we have deleted something, that from where we are setting, we believe could be viewed by others as inappropriate or out of place in a manner to hurt others.--**NEW MODERATOR**
We ask that you edit what you have typed and think about how others may perceive what you have said. **If citizens think that posts about Law Enforcement Officials, Lawyers, Judges, Businesses, Individuals, Teachers, Students, Parents, and Citizens in general are not being read by those individuals you are wrong.** They may not respond, but I guarantee you they are reading or

SINGLE DAD

All of the children in our neighborhood are always playing together. One of the familys that live about four houses up stopped by one day and ask if I would watch their children while they went out for their anniversary dinner. (I have only met them 4 or 5 times, very nice people. They know that I'm a single Father)

They said they would watch my children whenever I wanted to go out. I said 'Sure, its a deal, we'll have fun while you are gone'. They said we could stay at their house.

A few days later, after they were gone, we ordered pizza. After the kids had pizza and ice cream, I told them to stay on the couch and watch cartoons while I went into the den and got on the computer. The kids liked this!

A few minutes later my daughter came in and said Daddy, can we play beauty salon?' I was on E-Tater and not paying much attention, so I said 'yea, go ahead'. The little girls took off running and laughing!

A little while later the boys came in and said 'Daddy, can we catch some fish?' (There is a very small creek that runs behind our houses, I THOUGHT that was where the boys were going) I was still reading E-tater and did not want to be bothered, so I said 'yea, just don't get your shoes wet' The little boys took off-there were 3 of them.....

About 15 minutes later, as I was getting off the computer, here come the boys with their shirts and shorts wet. My son said 'Daddy, look at all the little fish we got! As he was lifting up the paper bag to show me, the bottom fell out of the paper bag! All of the fish from their aquarium landed on the carpet, some still flopping! Most were dead.

After I screamed, the girls came running. When I looked up at them, the little girl who used to have long hair had her hair cut off above one ear and below the other ear!

Just about that time, in walks mom and dad from their anniversary dinner. While they were looking around (The mom acts like she is in shock) I tried to explain that I was on E-tater!

While we were getting ready to leave, I told my kids to see if there was any pizza left.....

As the dad was holding the mom back, we ran out the door.....

Life is tough for a single dad!

being kept informed of what is on the E-tater and the atmosphere of those discussions. We would like to thank all of those that participate and help in providing information for the Commentator.

Humpty Dumpty was pushed!

THE EDITOR'S REMARKS OF APPRECIATION



Friends and Neighbors of Pocahontas County: I have suffered a medical problem a few weeks ago which has resulted in two surgeries and the installation of a shunt into my skull to drain off excess spinal fluid, etc. A few years ago this would have been a near death experience; however, due to advancements in medicine, the efficient and through service provided by Statx EMTS, our local hospital, the chopper service, and Ruby Memorial Hospital, I have been returned to health without physical paralysis or diminution of my mental faculties. At this point, I am not allowed to drive and I have to be very careful not to fall and injure my head. I am currently engaged in physical therapy and will soon be back on the road again.

I would like to give God all the glory for my recovery and thank all my friends, family, and loved ones who prayed for me while I was in rehab. I never realized that I had so many friends. I deeply appreciate my wife Carol, for sticking with me through thick and thin. It's good to have a faithful wife. She was always near for 42 days in the hospital and rehab, sitting up most of the time grabbing a nap when possible from a straightback chair. There is no substitute for a good wife when you are in trouble like I was. We have been married for 35 years and I love her as much today as I did they day we were married.

I deeply appreciate those who came to be with Carol during this trying time: LeAnna, Brent, Lindell, Keith and his wife Charlotte, sister-in-law Evalee and Josh and Melonie, and neighbor Margaret Burr who spent many days with us at the hospital.

I am grateful to our local hospital for their wisdom and insight into my condition. After testing me, they transferred me by chopper to Ruby Memorial Hospital, the ideal place for a person who was experiencing a brain hemorrhage. It is probably because of this and this alone I am able to type this message to you today. I can also tell you that I was impressed that when I got to Pocahontas Hospital early in the morning, that my first memory of that moment is the head nurse, Kyna Moore, standing by my stretcher taking charge of the emergency. I am convinced that what they did that morning has resulted in my lack of physical deficits.

Then there are our neighbors: Jason, Jody, Ryan, Janet, Marietta, and Margaret. All came as soon as the call was made. It is a good feeling knowing that praying people are present. They cleared a path for the EMT's and helped load me into the ambulance. My brother Keith was returning from vacation and was in Tennessee when he got word that I was sick. He made a bee-line to Morgantown. He has proven to be a faithful and loving brother even bringing me home in the end. He never missed a week visiting me. Jason and Art built a full set of handrails and handicapped supports for access to my home.

Dr. Art and Mary Kreft filled the pulpit in my absence. I had no worry about the preaching. My thanks goes out to Jim Burks, the pharmacist, who took special care to ensure that my proper medicines were provided.

Many thanks to Margaret, Bev and Mary for doing everything from A-Z at our home and Ryan for feeling our cats.

I thank all those who visited me in the hospital and especially for Richard Thompson for that very special prayer.

Then there were those who sent all cards: We have four albums full of cards. My wife arranged them so that I can easily see who sent them and know what they said. Hope and Randy made a raid at Target and purchased pj's etc. Hope cut my hair so that it was even on both sides. Holly probably saved my life with her advice to the doctors about my normally high blood pressure.

Thanks to Victory Chapel and their prayer warriors. There are so many church folks and not just Victory Chapel. Central Union Methodist was praying for me along with the church at Cooktown. As a Christian and believer in the healing power of God, it means a lot to me to know that my fellow Christians are praying for me. And there were so many people praying.

Finally, I thank everyone who set a \$ gift. My God bless you! Your generosity made it possible for my wife to stay comfortably at the special guest house at Ruby Memorial. She was able to visit in the daytime and return for a comfortable rest in the night after sitting with me during the day. I deeply appreciate everyone who had me on their prayer list. May God bless you!

Norman Alderman AKA Studwell Tater

Durbin Library Kaput--Forum Reporters

We were at that meeting and left after they talked about our new building possibilities. They chose to do the voting right after we left making no suggestions or warnings of the voting. dirty huh? but then again that's what Durbin library usually gets. I have been a volunteer there of countless hours because I truly believe and see what our library in Durbin is capable of having and what we do with what we got. We are very strong about our little library and very confident that there is a need for one. People in Marlinton must have a weird sense of what's important. They don't see the people we help and the people we have coming there all they are worried about is book checkout. Which we do very good for our selection we have. We have 2 children's programs and our playgroup is the largest in the county. Where are these children suppose to go to know. Kids come a lot adults for computers and faxes and copies. And we help people with stuff they need to find and problems they need to look up. People are so quick to close before they see the effect it will have on people. The money we do have for a building fund it was proposed that to use it for these expenses and keep the library open for a good while with that but no if it closes it will go to Marlinton. Marlinton has the largest library in the county. And we strive and fight and try to pull ahead to make it survive but a library that already has pretty much it all gets it if we go down. Not fair at all. They don't see grandparents and parents coming in to see their grandchildren and children's pictures on the wall from playgroup that they made. They don't see tourist coming in asking and really enjoying and commenting on our little library. A lot of the children who come to the library by walking or riding their bikes because their parents are at work. Kids having fun playing games at game night. All of them getting together to help each other with homework. Kids playing in the play room together. Kids saying they wish they can stay there longer.

NOVEMBER 21ST AT DURBIN LIBRARY MEETING FOR THE LIBRARY COME AND SUPPORT THE DURBIN LIBRARY AND ITS FUTURE TELL THEM WE NEED IT OPEN FOR US AND FOR THE CHILDREN MORE IMPORTANTLY. IF WE HAVE A GOOD TURN OUT THIS PROBLEM MIGHT BE ABLE TO BE FIXED. MAKE THEM SEE WE DESERVE TO KEEP WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY. WE HAVE TO FIGHT FOR THIS FOR OUR children's SAKE. IF THIS CLOSES OUR CHILDREN ARE OUT OF LUCK.--reported by Ruby & Shelly

I attended the meeting last night when the decision came about to close the library. We currently have \$38,500 dollars in the Durbin fund. This was money that was raised for the construction of the new library. We asked them to use that money to start paying expenses. We were informed that the money was being used for expenses. However, David Cain stated that if we used all that money for expenses, where would we get money for the "new" library. However, the Board of Trustees informed us that we would need about \$300,000 dollars to construct a new library. At first, we were given three months to get estimates, come up with a site for the new library and find out other information. However, the end of the meeting brought about the information that now we have until November 30th to raise the money for a new library or it will be closed. Beth Little, Board of Trustees, thinks that closing the library in Durbin will be more beneficial for the other libraries considering our circulation isn't as high as theirs. However, they don't understand that if we were to obtain a new building and location, more people would be tempted to enter the library and perhaps spend more time there. So, now's the time for the communities of Boyer, Bartow, Frank and Durbin to stand up against the library closing. If you want the library to remain open, we need some voices heard, more people attending the meetings and we need to see if we can get some kind of a pledge fundraiser going to get money for the library. Otherwise, it will close. Hope to hear a lot of feedback about this matter. Thanks!-Patrick

Help Save the Sharp Farm

Friday September 1, 2006

Preservation Alliance of West Virginia

Pocahontas Plan Will Compromise Historic Attraction

[Update: On September 6, the WV Supreme Court refused to hear the appeal concerning the plan's required 20-year design; the current plan only fulfills a 10-year estimate.]

A planned sewage plant in Pocahontas County has been postponed until it goes before the West Virginia Supreme Court in September. The proposed site is in Slaty Fork on U.S. route 219, where thousands of visitors to local attractions pass annually. The plant has been cause for debate since the County Commission's appointed Public Service District board announced plans for acquisition of the site through eminent domain. Supporters say that it would enable future development in the vicinity of Snowshoe Mountain Resort.

The proposed site is the property of several Sharp family members. Tom Shipley, who operates his great uncle's general store across the highway, helps care for the holdings. Shipley has fought the project since its inception. The store is an intact vestige from the 1920s, with an interior very much unchanged. Shipley claims historic significance for the land dating to the Civil War and earlier, and feels that a plant with airborne byproducts and stadium lights across the highway would pose a threat to the store and the bed-and-breakfast that he operates onsite. Critics feel that his business does not go out of its way to make a significant contribution to the economy, but Shipley resents that the county would take land that has been in his family for generations.

Many people do not oppose a sewage plant, but doubt the wisdom of using the planned site. Some feel that taking the land to benefit private developers is legally questionable. Others object on environmental grounds, since the site is on a flood plain prone to sinkholes. The plant would feed into the upper Elk River trout breeding area. Though the Department of Environmental Protection has issued a Finding of No Significant Impacts statement, this threat has brought objections from fishing associations and communities dependent on money from visitors fishing the Elk.

Project supporters, including the County Commission and Snowshoe Mountain, Inc., point to growth at Snowshoe and the surrounding area to demonstrate the need for the plant, and insist that the site is their only cost-effective option. In 2005, the Governor offered state lands a short distance away on Rail Authority property. Proponents rejected the deal, citing \$2 million in additional costs for site access. One supporter pointed to a similar plant in nearby Green Bank, noting that it was barely noticeable to passing motorists.

Located near the road, a plant on the current site could be seen as an imposition on the view shed. Changes to the rural character of the area could negatively impact heritage tourism. The county's summer tourism season depends on visitors to places like Cass Scenic Railroad and other attractions. Visitors marvel at the scenery, which

serves as a draw. The highway has seen development in the area close to Snowshoe; the proposed plant is about five miles below the current core of development. Some worry that the new plant could be a precedent for construction further down, which has also seen growth north of Marlinton. Potential impact of sprawl on heritage tourism, which has played a major part in the local economy for decades, is notably absent from the dialogue.

September's court case will be tried on grounds that growth projections used to support the plant were inaccurate. Several permits were issued allegedly based on a time period of ten years, rather than the 20-year figures that some agencies require. It is unclear how many private residents will connect to the plant, which requires that two ridges be crossed with pipeline in order to gain access from Snowshoe. Only a small number of residents would connect immediately, leaving the remainder of the plant's capacity to benefit future development.

Increased demand for vacation property will continue to put development pressure on the county. Few will argue that economic growth is a negative thing, but the lack of consideration for assets that support heritage tourism, or for the management of growth, may cause future problems. For now, the success or failure of the current plan or any alternatives hinges primarily on a battle between the supporters of environmental protection and development.

Article copied

The Commentator urges the Pocahontas County Commission to Move the Sewer Site

If a lawyer and an IRS agent were both drowning, and you could only save one of them, would you go to lunch or read the paper?

The Lawyer in Surgery

As the lawyer slowly came out of the anesthesia after surgery, he said, "Why are all the blinds drawn, doctor?"

"There's a big fire across the street," the doctor replied. "We didn't want you to think the operation was a failure."



**Trail's End Lodging
in Marlinton**

Rainy Days

Rainy Days,
Rainy Days,
they are so wet,
with no outside playing and pouring sweat,
on the school bus,
on my way back from a long day at school,
I look out my window and watch the rain pour down,
here comes with my stop,
all ready i said to myself,
with my raincoat on and my boots on all dry,
heres my stop!,
I get off and splash!,
I step in a puddle of water,
good thing i had my boots on,
down the sidewalk i went,
splashing and walking through puddles of water,
li get home and step inside,
and i make a puddle of my own,
dripping to the floor.--Autumn Ryder--Local Poet

**IGNORE YOUR RIGHTS
AND THEY'LL GO AWAY**

HOW MUCH IS THE BIG MAN IS GETTING PAID

Bruce Constantineau, Vancouver Sun

Published: Thursday, September 21, 2006

Intrawest Corp. chief executive Joe Houssian will reap a \$126-million US windfall next month if shareholders approve the company's proposed sale to Fortress Investment Group LLC of New York.

A shareholder information circular released Wednesday shows Intrawest executives and directors will receive a total of about \$159.8 million (all figures US), with Houssian getting nearly 80 per cent. The payouts cover the value of shares, options and restricted/deferred share units owned by company officers and directors.

The circular said Intrawest employees who are not senior officers or directors hold about 15 per cent of the outstanding share options, worth an estimated \$4.7 million.

Two-thirds of Intrawest shareholders must approve the \$2.9-billion sale of the Vancouver-based resort developer to the private U.S. firm at a meeting scheduled for Oct. 17. Shareholders will get \$35 a share if the deal goes ahead, a 32-per-cent premium over the stock price before the proposed sale was announced last month.

**Special Internet Warning:
Excessive tatering can be
addictive. Hundreds in
Pocahontas County have
become hooked.**

Local Activist to be Targeted for SWA Fees

Editor's Note: John Leyzorek is one of the county's leading freedom fighters. He has unsuccessfully fought for a **"usage based solid waste system."** John is a stalwart recycler. He has refused to pay the solid waste fee because he believes that it encourages waste. **The Commentator is solidly behind John and supports his efforts to reduce the amount of solid waste we are burying in the ground.**

I have felt for many years that although the Green Box system is convenient and reasonably priced for many people, it is fundamentally unjust to charge a flat rate which bears no relationship to the use or non-use of a service.

Elected bodies, like County Commissions, Congress, etc. have the power to levy taxes, which everybody pays regardless of how much or little each uses of gov't services, but only elected bodies have that power (remember, "no taxation without representation"), and the SWA is not elected, not representative.

This feeling that it was unjust led me to read all the WVCode about solid waste and Solid Waste Authorities, and indeed, I am convinced that SWA's are allowed to charge for direct use of service, and not otherwise. I won't clog the Forum with all the legal stuff, but it's on the Public Service Commission's site, under "Wilkinson" case, if anyone wants to see it.

I think that we need a system that charges you to throw stuff away, less if you throw away less and more if more.

Many places use such systems. The US EPA has a big section of its website devoted to this, the "Pay As You Throw" idea.

Long time SWA Chairman Ed Riley is opposed to such a change, He says that the rate would have to be excessively high or the landfill would close or both. I disagree. As long as the math is done right, the costs would be covered, and we would be able to keep the landfill open.

Such systems that have been put in place have always substantially reduced the total amount of trash being thrown away, since people have a reason to be careful when carelessness costs them money. If the total amount of trash going into our landfill shrank by more than the cost of running the landfill shrank by, then the rate per ton or per bag would have to go up. Indeed, daily costs of running the landfill would go down little, BUT the huge costs are in covering up old "cells", building new ones (in the vicinity of \$500,000 per acre, and going up each time), and monitoring and caring for old ones forever, so filling the place up more slowly would save huge sums over time.

Also, if the rate did go up, at least it would be in the power of each individual to reduce his bill by recycling more and buying less "made-to-be-garbage" stuff. Under the current system, everybody suffers for the ones who generate the most trash, and noone has any incentive to be careful.

Please contribute your opinion, "you pay your costs and I pay mine"; or "everybody pay for everybody and one size fits all". Maybe there's a third way, anyway I want to hear it.--John Leyzorek

John: In his own words

Background: In 2000, the Authority voted to "pursue collections", meaning that it would begin to sue people who had not paid the "green box fee"

At the time, there were hundreds of people in that category, about 15% in fact of all the 3500 or so people the Authority billed had not paid the fee for at least two years.

The Authority took then, and to date has taken, no official action on who would be sued first, or whether all "delinquent" would be sued, or who would handle the cases.

Four people were sued first, by a lawyer named Sims from Elkins. Three were over 80 years old, and one worked out of the County.

To date, around twenty have been sued, **out of the hundreds on the Authority's books as delinquent.**

Some have paid, some had judgement rendered against them because they failed to appear.

Several got together with a lawyer and fought. The lawyer sold them out, they got another. Once it was clear that they had a lawyer, and a defense, NOTHING happened in their case for two years, after which the judge dismissed the case for lack of action.

Court rules say that such a dismissal acts "with prejudice", meaning that the case cannot be reopened.

But it was. They filed papers, prepared the defense.. and Judge Rowe ruled against them, without ever letting them make that defense. He just recently (after three months) entered an order granting all the Solid Waste Authority's points, including many demonstrably absolutely false.

They are preparing an appeal.

At the August Solid Waste Authority meeting, a bill from Attorney Sims was presented, in the amount of about \$7000 (He has received \$41,922 since he first began working for the Authority)

This bill included time spent not only on the fee collection cases, but on a case filed against the Authority a year ago before the Public Service Commission by a couple from Charleston who own a camp in the County, saying that they take all their garbage home to Charleston where they subscribe to a collection service, and therefore they should not have to buy service here also.

After the couple filed their complaint, the PSC naturally sent an official notice to the SWA asking for its response.

SWA Chairman Riley, the County Commission's appointee, concealed this from the other members for three months, meanwhile on his own getting lawyer Sims to file a response ostensibly from the Authority, even though four out of the five members did not even know that a complaint had been made.

When a preliminary ruling from the PSC favorable to the Authority was received (last November), Riley did not conceal this, and that is when brand-new Member of the Authority John Leyzorek became aware of the complaint and of Riley's deception.

He immediately contacted the PSC to inform them that the SWA's response to **the complaint was improper, not a legal action of the Board.** He also asked to intervene in the case, to present what the law actually was, **which he knew Sims would not do,** and which he was not sure the Complainant knew.

This case dragged on a year more, and the PSC's final ruling, based on Sim's incorrect legal reasoning and on an inapplicable precedent, was that the complainant does have to pay the fee, but that the SWA's green boxes, locked up five days a week, do not provide a good enough service to justify collecting the fee from campers, and that they must be open more hours.

Back to the bill from the lawyer on the table at the August meeting.



Leyzorek moved that all the other bills be paid, and that this one be considered separately. Motion passed.

He then argued that Sims had no valid contract with the Authority, since it had never voted to retain him for any matter at all. He also said that the Authority should have been represented by the well-paid County Attorney, instead of hiring one from Elkins. To that Riley said that Weiford did not represent the Authority, and that the Attorney General's office approved the use of Sims. His only answer to the general objection was that the Authority had voted to collect, but Leyzorek correctly reiterated the point that the Authority never took any specific action to hire Sims, therefore he has no contract to represent the Authority in the collection cases, therefore the bill is unauthorized and should not be paid.

About the portion of the bill for representation before the PSC, Leyzorek went farther.

He said that the Authority as a body never took any action at all on the complaint. Riley on his own and without any authorization did so, pretending to be the Board, and he likewise hired Sims for this additional matter entirely on his own, so if anyone owed Sims money, it was Riley personally.

Leyzorek said that if the Authority covered this bill of Riley's, any member voting to do so was guilty of misappropriation of funds.

Jim Burks was very dissatisfied with Sims's performance generally, and felt that a private business hiring such a lawyer for such a fight would go broke.

And his hunch seems to be correct, since if 20 people have been sued, and each was judged to owe for five years (which is the longest period the law allows a back debt to be collected for), five times \$80 per year is \$400 per person, times 20 people is \$8,000 to collect, so Sims's work represents a loss to the Authority of about \$34,000!

Riley and his protégé new Sanitarian David Henderson voted to pay Sims's bill, and Leyzorek and Jim Burks voted not to, and being tied the motion to pay it failed.

Will Riley bring the bill up again?

Will the members stick to their positions?

How will Member Dave Elliott vote, if the bill comes up again at a meeting where he is present?

Stay tuned!

Editor's Note: The vote was redone at the next meeting and the board voted to pay the bill. So the fight is on! We are confident that John's opposition will try to target him as an example. John is not a wealthy man but he can support himself in a court of law. He is not afraid to take on unlawful government officials.

More About SWA

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Some have paid, some had judgement rendered against them because they failed to appear.

Several got together with a lawyer and fought. The lawyer sold them out, they got another. Once it was clear that they had a lawyer, and a defense, NOTHING happened in their case for two years, after which the judge dismissed the case for lack of action.

Court rules say that such a dismissal acts "with prejudice", meaning that the case cannot be reopened.

But it was. They filed papers, prepared the defense.. and Judge Rowe ruled against them, without ever letting them make that defense. He just recently (after three months) entered an order granting all the Solid Waste Authority's points, including many demonstrably absolutely false. They are preparing an appeal.

At the August Solid Waste Authority meeting, a bill from Attorney Sims was presented, in the amount of about \$7000 (He has received \$41,922 since he first began working for the Authority)

This bill included time spent not only on the fee collection cases, but on a case filed against the Authority a year ago before the Public Service Commission by a couple from Charleston who own a camp in the County, saying that they take all their garbage home to Charleston where they subscribe to a collection service, and therefore they should not have to buy service here also.

After the couple filed their complaint, the PSC naturally sent an official notice to the SWA asking for its response.

SWA Chairman Riley, the County Commission's appointee, concealed this from the other members for three months, meanwhile on his own getting lawyer Sims to file a response ostensibly from the Authority, even though four out of the five members did not even know that a complaint had been made.

When a preliminary ruling from the PSC favorable to the Authority was received (last November), Riley did not conceal this, and that is when brand-new Member of the Authority John Leyzorek became aware of the complaint and of Riley's deception.

Liars Corner has also checked and they can get 50 pound bags of monkey food for only \$9.75. They said a 50 pound bag would last a little over 6 weeks. We will only have to buy 2 bags to get the monkeys through the winter before turning them back loose. We could also use a couple on the street corners to draw tourists into our local stores while we play our accordians. If you need help let me know. I have a couple of grandpas old Brass Spitoons I could washout for the monkeys to help collect money. We could also collect grape vines now that the leaves are off and make a playground by the skate park for them to play when they aren't working.

THE GREEN BANK TREE MONKEY INVASION

Editor's Note: The forum had an unusual entry about an invasion of tree monkies in Green Bank. We don't know whether it is bunk or not. You decide.

Is anyone else having problem with the tree monkeys around Green Bank? It's getting ridiculous. Every night when we come home our trees are literally filled with these little monkeys. They have scared away all the birds and raid my feeders. Their scat is destroying my yard. I don't know why they ever brought those pests here in the first place but something has to be done. They are taking over. I'm afraid to even let my kids play outside. They're small but they're meran and there are dozens and dozens of them.



These must be the same monkeys that I heard about last spring. They are trash control monkeys, a super breed actually, ranging up to six foot tall. It was said that the government placed them on Spruce flats to keep people from throwing trash over the hillside. They have a special banana tree, to nourish them and from what i heard they couldn't leave the spruce flats area or they will die. But apparently they have escaped!!!! Oh No!!! What to do?? Try sprinkling a few ashes around the base of your tree, that should keep the little boogers away. As for their scat just throw it back at them, they don't like it and will leave.

Actually they really do exist. The smaller ones that were mentioned around 8 to 16 inches, were dropped by the government at the same time they dropped the lady bugs. There was all kinds of monkeys falling out of the sky. The Larger ones that you have seen 6 to 8 feet tall, were actually Imported from Africa and were brought in by boats up Knapps Creek to avoid customs inspections. The larger ones are the tame ones, The ones that the government had anything to do with is the ones you have to watch out for. They were the ones that were bought by the county-commision from left over fish stocking money.

Them big monkeys came in here after the trout hatchery started feeding their fish gorilla pellets. The stock trout became a lot larger and would put up a real good fight when hooked. Them trout became so strong I had to put 50 pound test line on my reels. There was so many complaints about them that DNR had to start feeding the trout banana's to tame them back down. The monkeys figured out what was going on and started eating all the trout out of the streams. Thats why we now have to stock trout in West Virginia. This might also be the reason the monkeys were bought by the county commision with the left over fish stock money

DNR is already considering a muzzle loader season to last for one week, starting the first day after deer season. You will be required to buy a special stamp to bag a male monkey. There will also be a limit to 2 per household. Most households already have 2

Norman they are right, I drove through there last week to look at the fall leaves and there was a monkey in every tree. I contacted the Mayors office in Marlinton and their Dog Catchers are willing to help collect them. Their business is slow since everyones cats and dogs have moved inside for the winter. Also The Pocahontas Times has plenty of room to run adds for monkeys also since they are no longer accepting Sewer Letters. We can borrow the caged carboard recycle trailers on the weekend to collect the monkeys since they are not used when the gates are locked on the weekends.

THE GREAT POCAHONTAS COUNTY
SMELL--Our Forum Writers View

The last two weeks I and a few others have noticed the strong smell of musk (kind of like a ferret). It is after dark and I have smelled this in several areas through out the county, but always near a forest. Has anyone else noticed and if so does anyone now what/where it is coming from? me too--Just Wondering

My husband and I noticed it last night, after dark and there is a forest nearby. It was very strong, as if I had sprayed musk perfume in the house. But when we shut the windows, the smell stayed outside and wasn't apparent in the house. We too are wondering what could have this smell other than the ferret family. Coyotes? Bear? Our dogs did not bark nor indicate anything was amiss. It sure is strange and gives one the willies when your imagination runs wild trying to figure out where the smell is coming from.--country girl

you people may be smelling sewage.--me too

No, not sewage, musk...too distinct a smell to confuse with anything else. If you've ever smelled musk you know what we are speaking about. There is not other smell like it. This is real. Whether anyone else has had this same experience or not. I was just hoping that someone could help us figure out what kind of animal gave off this strong a smell of musk. Thanks for the report on the ferret sighting. But, to have this overwhelming smell, it would have had to have been several ferrets. But, thanks anyway.

There only one answer!!!! BIG FOOT.....Is in your area!--Texas Style!!!



I have also noticed that smell.I was coming home one night and in a couple areas i noticed a smell like that . after you cross the virginia line in frost ,before you get to monterey,not sure what that is called through there but in a few places i smelt something, i have never noticed it before either.the first time i noticed it ,i didn't pay much attention to it the when i got a little further up the road i smelt again and it kinda made me wonder.I didn't say anything about it ,then after reading this is sounds a little strange.--me also

THE ODOR IS FROM WHITE DAISYS



Maybe, but none around my home and the smell isn't always here. In fact, haven't smelled it for several nights; seems to come and go. I really think it is animal connect-

ed. Does anyone know if Coyotes or bear put off a musky smell? Thanks for the suggestion.--me too

I have lived here for 27 years and have picked white daisys along with many other flowers, I have never noticed this smell from the daisys in the past 27 years. Not sure where your info is coming from but unless they're suddenly producing a new 'scent' the white daisys are not the source of the smell I have noticed. But thanks for the input.--Just Wondering

We have noticed peculiar odors as well. Not sure what it is but almost like a plant of some type is in bloom. If it's bigfoot he needs a bath!

Our family smelled it last night around midnight in the Slatyfork area. We were driving home on 219, had the windows down and whew....it smelled like a musty smell. Only smelled it for a few seconds. Weird, huh? Blew my mind when I read this thread.--Funny Smell--Professor

Are skunks in mating season? I know their marking is real musty. Haven't smelled the smell so can't compare.--maybe

Skunks mate in late February/early March. Good thinking, though!--Eccentric Backwoods Recluse

Are the Rainbow Folks Back ?--Idea

Persythethia. --I'm thinking

I think that the smell may be coming from the bloom of chestnut trees. This tends to have a terrible odor.--Pretty Sure

Yes, we have a very strange smell here at times, and I do not know anything to compare it to.

A couple strange happenings here lately. We have had three male cats which appear to have been in a fight. Nothing unusual about this except all have had a large (approx 1") piece of hide torn from their neck. In addition, each one has had half of a front foot missing.

Then two evenings ago, while sitting on the front porch, a very strange animal (appearance of a bobcat) except darker in color than any wildcat I have ever seen. This animal appeared to weigh approximately 30-35 pounds. One of my cats was present, and he retreated to the porch immediately. Shortly thereafter, two dogs which are kept on chains, directly across and right above me, went absolutely crazy, barking continuously. The animal was only in an area I could see for about 20 yards, trotting all the way.

Do not know if this has any relation to the musk smell, just thought I would pass it along.

Yes, to the best of my knowledge, all animals have a musk smell, and some of them are rotten. I have located rattlesnakes this way, and if anyone has any doubts, bring me a rattler and I will prove it to you. They have a scent gland approx 10 inches (full grown) from the end of their tail. I found out when I helped skin one.

Call me crazy, say what you want, ALL OF THIS IS FACT--GEORGE SHEETS

Your right George. Rattlesnakes have THAT odor. My Grandad told me that Copperheads have the smell of cucumbers also (can't say that I know that as a fact as, I've only seen one and was too busy killing it and trying not to get bit, to give her the ol' sniff test!)--YEP!

I suspect your Grandpap is right. I had a snake get in my cabin a few days ago and was telling an elderly friend, who was quite the outdoors-man in his younger days, about it. He asked what kind of snake it was and after informing him that I didn't know, his next question was did I smell cucumbers?

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Actually, I lied.(not intentionally) I've seen 2 copperheads. The one just last weekend (at the Frenchcreek game farm), wicked looking things they are! Which BTW, if you've never been to the wildlife farm, you should go, IT IS AWESOME!!!!!!

ARE YOU GUYS SURE THAT ITS NOT THE MOUNTAIN LAUREL YOU SMELL, KIND OF SWEET AND MUSKY AT THE SAME TIME. ITS IN BLOOM NOW. AND BY BACKYARD SMELLED SWEET AND MUSKY THIS MORNING. I DON'T SMELL IT ALL THE TIME, DEPENDS ON THE WEATHER.--JUST GLAD TO BE HERE

I have smelled that "smell" numerous times lately. AT night coming down on 39. Also last night had two windows open and about 4am had to close them and cut the fan because of the smell. It is a "dry" smell that kinda takes your breath. Like very heavy. Hard to explain. Smell is not horrible or sickening just, musty or something.--ANON

The musk smell you are referring to.. is it like a super strong urine smell?

.....and one other really cool thing, They have two (timber?) wolves. The female is not very social but the male comes right up to the fence so you can scratch him! He is HILARIOUS!!!!!! Very gentle though.--YEP!



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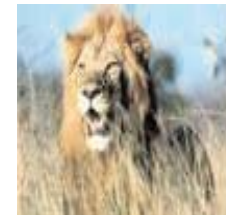
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If so there is one old timer in the area who claims that when you smell that strong urine smell near woods or isolated roadways that is the odor of huge man eating cats. Not to be confused with house cats or short tailed wild cats that only attack humans when infected with rabies.

It has been proposed once that there was a person in



America who obtained a bunch of foreign exotic cats mainly African cats.. and for whatever reason was not able to keep or maintain this collection of huge meat eaters.. the government [DNR?] took it upon themselves to release the cats into the wild instead of destroying them. It was also said that the cats had been inbred between species due to their confinement in close quarters.

In the Beckley area in the last few decades an exotic huge cat was killed by local hunters who had difficulty identifying the beast. They did manage to produce a grainy black and white photograph of the cat hanging from a tree.

My current speculation: these cats are in the Pocahontas county area or some derived version of them.. which give off this strange strong odor of urine.. and they like to watch roadways for a helpless wanderer.

I do not believe the odor comes from plants or pollen.. because the odor is mobile and can follow you from one area to another.. plants tend not to move out of their current planted location.

Also some days you can smell it some days you can't.. which makes me believe whatever is stinking is most definitely mobile. Smelling in a certain area then later not in the same area no matter what the weather is like.--motc

I have noticed a strange strong urine like smell in my yard many evenings. At first I thought it was some plant, but it's been too long to have been a plant, and it is only there sometimes. I have heard a mountain lion was spotted near here and thought that might be what it is, but I don't know. The smell comes and goes at different hours; it may be earlier in the evening or it may be dark; I've smelled it in hot humid weather and dry breezy weather. One evening I was outside and started smelling it faintly, then it got stronger and stronger. I got scared and went inside! The hill behind my home runs by the road about a mile away, and one evening I was driving and smelled it there too. I really don't think it's a plant - I smelled it in the Spring and up until now. I don't know if this the same thing you all are talking about or not, but it's kind of scary to think you might have a mountain lion lurking around!--Ann

.....and one other really cool thing, They have two (timber?) wolves. The female is not very social but the male comes right up to the fence so you can scratch him! He is HILARIOUS!!!!!!! Very gentle though.--YEP!

That's okay YEP! Thanks for the answer. I may take my children there for them to see the animals.--Ann

MY GOD let it go.....I'm so sick of the story about the stupid smell !!!----Improve your minds

I smelled the smell then saw big foot running through town

Make fun if you want to, but if you smelled something you were afraid was a big cat, you'd want to want to know what someone else found. Maybe they're just telling a big one, maybe not. I know I've smelled a strong urine like smell too many times over a period of too long to just dismiss it.-Ann

To Ann:
No the end of the story has not been on yet!! some one wrote something that wasn't very nice The end of the story may never be written ,The claw marks that was on the door that was still there when they tore down the Shanny, The strange howls that were heard and the things i seen over the next few days...Some people just don't appreciate a good story.....Texas Style!!!

I have seen several red foxes in the area lately. Usually after dark, when traveling near wooded areas(which is all over Pocahontas County, of course). I've also seen some bobcats in this area lately. I don't know if either animals could be related to the smell that is being discussed though. Each time I have seen the foxes and the bobcats, I have had my car windows up.--WV Native

Whoa there, lets leave me out of this all right. I've got enough of my own problems. Do you even know what its like to be in my position? First of all do you know what it costs to have size 24 1/2 6E shoes made? Second, being just over seven foot tall you tend to hit your head on everything. Forget trying to find cloths that fit at Wal-Mart. Third,

Eccentric Backwoods Recluse

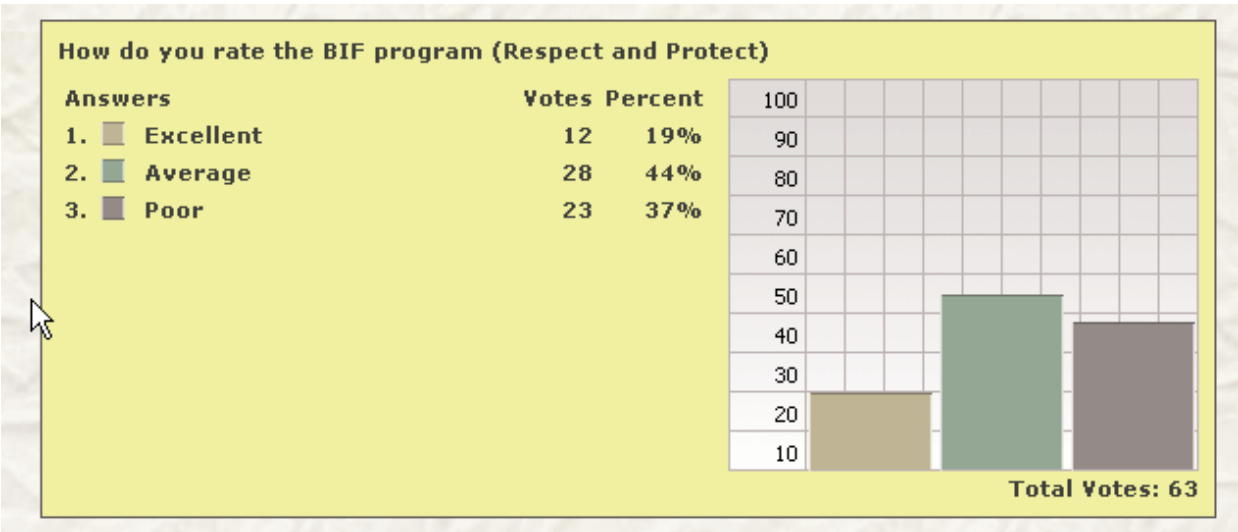
About this awful smell..we were out in our yard one evening last week and we smelled that smell...it smelled like real strong cat urine..we couldn't figure out what it was and really didn't think much more about it until reading all of this that you have written about...the day of that evening i was coming up our little dirt road near Dunmore and i saw a solid white ferret cross the road right in front of me..he didn't act like he was scared at all..he just ran into the woods and we haven't seen him since..i don't know what the smell is either but i have never smelled anything like it..some of you might think this is funny but it is real...we live in the woods and sometimes at night you do get a feeling that something is watching you...laugh if you want to but it really isn't funny.--cowgirl

One thing that it could be (just a stab in the dark), Sycamore trees from what I've heard, have a very strong, musky odor when they first leaf out. I Dunno.--YEP!

Taken from Etater Forum

A Tater Confesses

We must confess that we anxiously await the arrival of the Pocahontas Times each Wednesday evening. We love to read it! We have seen vast improvements in the Times over the recent months! They are working hard to deserve our patronage.



I had to get a carpet cleaner just to keep myself relatively clean. No musky smell here. Fourth, if I do come into town Norman may be there with his camera at the ready. It's like he's with the paparazzi or something. Fifth, I really get tired of the "Loved you in Star Wars" jokes. I have never met Harrison Ford or been his co-pilot. Please just leave me be and aggregate someone else. Now if you will excuse me, I have to send a letter to my friend Ness in Scotland. -H.H.Bigfoot

You tell 'em Bigfoot! Just because you're big and, well, rather ugly doesn't automatically mean you stink!--



\$39.95 Lodging

Trail's End in Marlinton

A truck driver used to amuse himself by running over lawyers he would see walking down the side of the road. Every time he would see a lawyer walking along the road, he would swerve to hit him, and there would be a loud "THUMP" and then he would swerve back onto the road.

One day, as the truck driver was driving along, he saw a priest hitchhiking. He thought he would do a good turn and pulled the truck over. He asked the priest, "Where are you going, Father?"

"I'm going to the church 5 miles down the road," replied the priest.

"No problem, Father! I'll give you a lift. Climb in the truck."

The happy priest climbed into the passenger seat and the truck driver continued down the road. Suddenly the truck driver saw a lawyer walking down the road and instinctively he swerved to hit him. But then he remembered there was a priest in the truck with him, so at the last minute he swerved back away, narrowly missing the lawyer. However, even though he was certain he missed the lawyer, he still heard a loud "THUD."

Not understanding where the noise came from, he glanced in his mirrors and when he didn't see anything, he turned to the priest and said, "I'm sorry Father. I almost hit that lawyer."

"That's okay," replied the priest. "I got him with the door!"

HOW MUCH THE BIG MAN IS GETTING PAID
Bruce Constantineau, Vancouver Sun
Published: Thursday, September 21, 2006

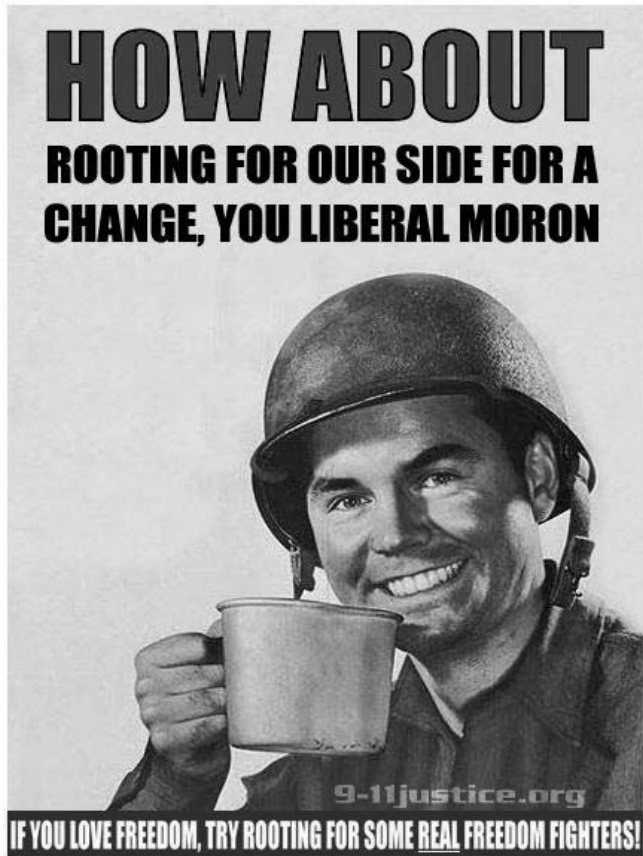
Intrawest Corp. chief executive Joe Houssian will reap a \$126-million US windfall next month if shareholders approve the company's proposed sale to Fortress Investment Group LLC of New York.

A shareholder information circular released Wednesday shows Intrawest executives and directors will receive a total of about \$159.8 million (all figures US), with Houssian getting nearly 80 per cent. The payouts cover the value of shares, options and restricted/deferred share units owned by company officers and directors.

The circular said Intrawest employees who are not senior officers or directors hold about 15 per cent of the outstanding share options, worth an estimated \$4.7 million.

Two-thirds of Intrawest shareholders must approve the \$2.9-billion sale of the Vancouver-based resort developer to the private U.S. firm at a meeting scheduled for Oct. 17. Shareholders will get \$35 a share if the deal goes ahead, a 32-per-cent premium over the stock price before the proposed sale was announced last month.

Houssian founded Intrawest in 1976 as a residential/commercial real estate company, and guided its evolution into North America's largest mountain resort operator -- with annual revenues of more than \$1.6 billion.



HALLOWEEN at the Cass School--A Forum Writer

When we were kids growing up in Cass, Halloween was a special time, Time for free candy, and getting dressed up in scary costumes.

One Halloween I heard Mr. Tracy telling Ben Jackson, Well its that time of year again you better Run over to Kane's store and get some coal oil, Now what Ben would do he would take this coal oil and apply it to the windows to keep the wax the kids applied from sticking, Well now that I heard this my little wheels starting turning in side of my head, I got with a few others and we came up with a plan...

So that day Ben went around with his chores, and we would catch him with a spray bottle; spraying all the low-ers windows with the coal oil.

So school came to a close at the end of the day, So everyone hurried home from school to get ready for some fun, We knew all the special places to hit first, to get the popcorn balls, candy apples, and the small toys, Well our pockets were filled with wax sticks, and some old candles Fun time was here! So me and a few other meet at a certain place just after dark, Well our plan was to hit the school first, And we did With wax sticks in one pocket, And a old shirt on under our costume Our plan was one person to wipe the cold oil off and one or two to wax. So after a while we had done what we set out to do, we could not wait to see Mr. Tracy, and Ben's Face tomorrow when they arrived at school.

Well after we got finished at the School, We went on hitting all the houses in Cass Getting all the candy we could, Back then we didn't have to worried about eating the candy they were all good folks that lived there, Some

time we would go to the house that gave the popcorn balls twice if we could, they sure was good.

And of course there were a few pumpkins that we just had to have, there was one that we tried to get but we got caught the first time we tried, So the lady went back inside and we tried again, and she caught us again well about the fifth time she ran us off she just stood on her front porch and yelled if you want it that bad just come and get it! Shoot we didn't want it then.

Well the next day we went to school and everyone was talking about the windows getting waxed some one ask me if I knew who did it of course I just said I didn't know And every one was saying how much work it was for Ben to get all of the wax off

Class started and Mr. Tracy stood up and ask everyone if they had fun and what all we got, I can still see him standing in front of the class room with that hand in his pocket shaking them coins.

He said I see some had more fun that the others I would like to see, and he started naming off names in my office please. In his office was Ben, and laid out on his desk were scrapes to remove the wax, soap and water and we spent the better part of the day cleaning our mess up!

After we were finished we were invited back into the office Mr. Tracy was setting be hind his desk with a big smile, BOYS we will see you next year, and he busted out laughing Now get back to class !!!!!!!

Halloween is for fun and children, and I never did the bad stuff my father told me he did as a child on this child's holiday.

my favorite things to do on the all hallows eve

1) corning.... (the use of dried corn and throwing it at peoples doors.... now kids if you daddy is a deer hunter and using it for bait.... be very very careful he may get *****

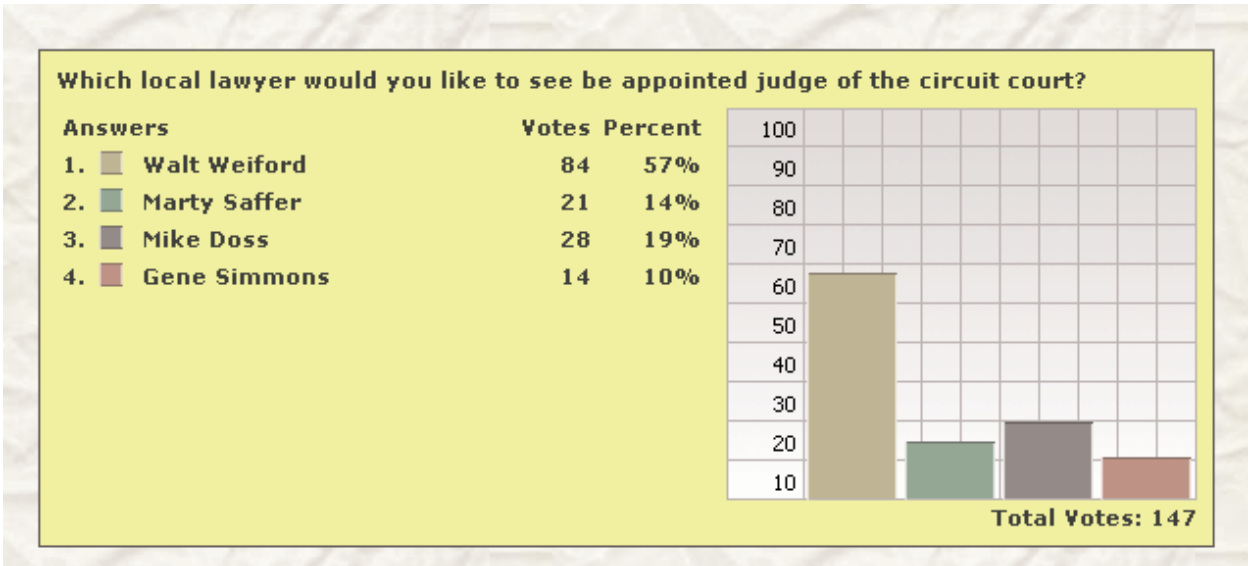
2) good old fashion soaping (the taking of a bar of soap and having fun with windows... first good rain it washes off) (girls don't write your names with it or you will be washing windows again)

3) TP patrol (good old fashion rolling of or unrolling of toilet paper on trees, cars, shrubs, fences, etc.... it is biodegradable and so much fun)

4)chucking of rotten vegetables.... self explanatory...

For all you all prudes.... get a grip now of these things are bad.... it is all in fun... you were once an ornery child too... admit it.. Besides the police can never patrol the whole county at one time... too lazy and won't leave Marlinton....

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!



One nice thing about
egotists:
they don't talk
about other people.

Q: Why is it dangerous for a lawyer to walk onto a construction site when plumbers are working?

A: Because they might connect the drain line to the wrong suer.

I tried sniffing Coke once. The ice cubes got stuck in my nose.

AN ETATER WRITER EXPOUNDS ON THE SHARP FARM

"When Intrawest bought Snowshoe, they immediately started working on improving their own infra-structure to accommodate the development plans for the resort."

PLEASE describe to us what 'improvements' were made? Did they 'improve' the raw sewage geysers spewing out of the man-hole covers due to hydraulic overload? Are you claiming that bulldozers parked on top of manholes to prevent this disgusting show an 'improvement'?

Are you referring to the stopgap measures including an equalization tank ordered by the Public Service Commission and the courts?

The community would appreciate a list these improvements.

"I think we all forget that Snowshoe attempted to obtain permit to build their own plant. They retreated from that effort when a local developer, at his own personal expense, protested it. The idea was that the community should have access to the treatment plant. "

Ah, yes, the 'Snowshoe tried to build their own plant MYTH'. Let's review some info from previous posts, which those that might be influenced by this MYTH may not be aware of:

In 2003 Snowshoe was in the middle of a lawsuit. They were being sued, not by a developer, but by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection. For what? Hundreds of violations with hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of fines for their two privately owned utilities at the top of the mountain. Incredibly, in the very midst of this lawsuit, Snowshoe filed an application to build, YES, a plant at Snowshoe. But here is where the mythmaking starts. That plant was to serve a NEW community at the BASE of the mountain and NOT Silvercreek or Snowshoe Village at the TOP of the mountain. Even though Snowshoe owns their utilities, the state 'encourages' all utilities to SHARE with their neighbors.

Let's see, how could Snowshoe get around this? Oh, they asked for an amazing 90,000 gallons per day (GPD) wasteload allocation. This is like a teaspoon of discharge into the ocean. AND Snowshoe claimed 90% of that allocation. The remaining 10% was brokered to a prominent family nearby. BUT, Snowshoe even claimed the right to take that remaining 10% if their Hawthorne community grew to the point that they required it. So Snowshoe never tried to solve any of their problems at the top of the mountain. They were merely attempting to develop a new property called Hawthorne.

This application was contested. Somewhere around 50% of the intervenors didn't even show up for the hearing. Some of the intervenors were actually Snowshoe residents protesting the rates they were going to have to pay for a new plant at the bottom of the mountain that was not going to help them solve anything at the top of the mountain where they lived.

That leaves less than a handful of intervenors that, yes, didn't want to be excluded....but not one intervenor insisted on a regional plant. They merely wanted to have access to the Hawthorne plant (at the base of the mountain) and not excluded from it by Snowshoe.

There was a bogus claim that Snowshoe was taking all the wasteload allocation from the area by building this plant and excluding their neighbors. Not so. The protesting developers could have simply applied for permission to build their own plants for their own developments and this would have been granted. After all, Snowshoe only asked for 90,000 gallons per day (allocation) for their Hawthorne plant and there were millions of gallons per day left over or available for them. Problem is, those

developers would have had to pay for the construction if they requested it.

The DEP even sent letters out to Snowshoe and others offering up the available waste load allocation so they could all finance, build and operate their own plants. There was enough wasteload allocation for Snowshoe to build a plant big enough or revamp their existing plants to solve all their mess at the top of the mountain, serve their new Hawthorne community and SHARE with their neighbors. Instead, request for permission to build was withdrawn by Snowshoe. The other intervening developers who were complaining they didn't have access to Snowshoe's plant...did they pay for and build their own system? ... No. Mysteriously, a plan was announced to, instead, put the burden of financing, building and operating the plant on the taxpayers.

And that was not the only burden the people have to bear. The county now has to bear the responsibility of liability for the aging 1970's infrastructure on the mountain! Snowshoe would not sell their utilities to the PSD without the county taking on that liability and the commissioners agreed to do it!

"Now, years after that ordeal, the Sharp family is facing the unfortunate prospect of hosting this facility on their cherished property. The public finally has something to say about the results of unplanned development. "

Others have tried to provide alternate sites for this plant in an effort to save the Sharp property. These were deemed inappropriate. "

It's funny, there was one site 'offered' and it seems the owners are in favor of zoning. The owner wrote a letter in the Pocahontas Times supporting the taking of the Sharp farm via Eminent Domain. Yet, they admit that if zoning were in force, the Sharp farm would never be taken.

And did you know that 'offered' site was 'deemed inappropriate' because of a void found on the property? Do you know voids are documented on the Sharp property, the same size as on the site rejected? Curious how that works.

"Thanks to the lack of land planning, we continue to have new housing starts in the area. Snowshoe currently has the greatest development at this point, but there continues to be housing starts throughout the community. I know it is hard to imagine, but one day there could be a "house on every acre". "

If the county wants this, then, by all means, let's get that sewer plant by the Scenic Highway and on the Sharp farm!

"The Sharp campaign blames Snowshoe, a private company, for the efforts of eminent domain."

Snowshoe hired a public relations company, designed, bought and paid for full-page color ads in The Times supporting this site, knowing full well that it required taking property via EMINENT DOMAIN. They paid for hundreds of signs along the highway "Support the Wastewater Treatment Plant" Which, was absurd, because no one was saying they didn't support it, the LOCATION was the issue.

"Snowshoe, the company, doesn't own the individual properties there. Although Intrawest profited from the development, they were only the developer in this situation. Each unit at Snowshoe is owned by tax paying individuals. Yes tax paying individuals."

You are avoiding the fact that Snowshoe owns and operates the utilities SNOWSHOE WATER AND SEWER, INC and SILVER-CREEK WATER AND SEWER, INC. No one is blaming those resident taxpayers, but it is the resort corporate ownership being referred to here. In fact, hundreds of individual petitions, individually signed and individually mailed back to the SAVE THE

SHARP FARM campaign, were received by those very Snowshoe homeowners. (stacked about 3 inches high) Everyone loves the people from Snowshoe. They are super people who have proven that they really care about this community!

The general manager, Bill Rock, was informed of these petitions. "They will not sway me", was his answer. Mr. Rock says it is his fiduciary responsibility to the stockholders of Intrawest to make sure the plant goes on the Sharp farm.

"The County tax collector can tell you how much property tax revenue has increased since Intrawest came into play. I'm sure the State Auditor can give you the numbers on the amount of sales tax revenue it has collected."

You have not forgotten Snowshoe's attempt to create a TIF area? Tax Increment Financing is a device which allows an entity to claim all the benefits from taxes collected within a certain location. Thankfully, it was defeated.

"Snowshoe is important to this community for economic reasons. Along with that comes some of the negatives associated with any growth. But do our negatives outweigh the positives? And, without a plan, what control or recourse do we have?"

There is work to be done, for sure. The 'positives' are important. But there isn't a 'positive' on this earth worth sacrificing a family's hopes, dreams and livelihood when thousands of state-owned acres in countless 'hollows' and back roads are available and offered by the state.

"A portion of the sales tax from operations of the resort comes back to Pocahontas County and all of the 3% lodging tax stays here. The homeowners of Snowshoe pay an annual assessment fee based on the size of their property. 6% sales tax is also assessed on that. The community gets residual from travelers. No doubt about it, tourism is our number one business. And, Snowshoe is the leader. It is big enough to put this county in the lime-light."

So should we sacrifice this nifty little landmark called the Sharp farm for the limelight? On September 1, 2006, the West Virginia Preservation Alliance wrote: "Located near the road, a plant on the current site could be seen as an imposition on the view shed. Changes to the rural character of the area could negatively impact heritage tourism. The county's summer tourism season depends on visitors to places like Cass Scenic Railroad and other attractions. Visitors marvel at the scenery, which serves as a draw."

"Now, we have a new member on the PSD who happens to be a realtor. He knows these facts, and he understands the sentiment surrounding the Sharp property. Maybe this will prove to be a positive move. I hope so. "

There is still hope.

"No one wants or agrees with taking property from someone, whatever the reason. If this happens, it will be a sad thing for everyone. But please don't tell me the sewage plant will destroy a thriving business.....the Sharp B&B and county store are more of a museum, landmark, etc., than a business."

Oh my. So you believe the business is not thriving? So, if that were true, we should sacrifice the Sharp family to the gods of economic development? All businesses have an ebb and flow. Over 122 years, there are bound to be periods of adjustment. The Sharp farm was the center of the community for decades. If the project leaders had bothered to actually contact the property owners they were targeting, they might have learned of a concerted effort in the works to re-create the magic of the past. Ask the owner of THE PURPLE FIDDLE in Thomas, WV how a little country store can be rejuvenated into a THRIVING business to

A Forum Writer Expounds

add tax dollars to the all-mighty kitty!

And are there not other considerations other than how a property is contributing to the local tax base? Connecticut took an 80-year-old woman's lifetime home from her so the town could have a private developer come in, build and pay taxes to get the town out of debt. Is Pocahontas County in that shape?

The Ohio State Supreme Court, in a recent NORWOOD decision, stopped a little town from taking 100 homes via EMINENT DOMAIN to expand their mall so they could have a higher tax base. 97 families were forced to leave their hopes and dreams, but 3 stayed firm. They won because one of the Supreme Court Justices (O'Conner) said when Eminent Domain is used, you take "...the place where ancestors toiled, where families were raised, where memories were made."

"The only reason putting the plant on the Sharp property is wrong is that these people just don't want it there. It's their property, and it may have a major impact on the environment."

Could there be other reasons why they shouldn't put the plant there? Poor planning? Waste of taxpayer money? Could Snowshoe not simply revamp their existing plants? The technology exists and then the state would not have to finance it. Super clean alternatives can even be funded by federal grants!

"But please stop blasting Snowshoe for this action. Snowshoe is not just a company owned by Canadians (which will be New Yorkers soon). It is a community of homeowners who pay a lot of money to over-see a property in Pocahontas County. It is a business that employs citizens of the county. It is an economic support to the State of West Virginia and Pocahontas County. That seems to get overlooked in the dialog."

No one is blasting the tax-paying homeowners or the hard working employees. God bless each and every one of them. God Bless Snowshoe Mountain Resort and Intrawest, too, but it is because Intrawest kept building and building and building without the proper infrastructure to accommodate this growth that this problem was forced on all of us.

"And local developments like Fassifern Fields, Slaty Ridge, Slatyfork Farms, etc. have construction going on all the time. All along HWY 219, property is for sale."

But do they have the hundreds of violations, fines and have they been sued by the DEP?

"We need protective planning!"

We may or may not need ZONING, but what we needed in the past, need now and will need in the future is for a \$1.6 billion company to take a few dollars of the \$250,000,000.00 they spent building those houses up on the hill and use of few of those bucks to fix the problems they created.



GROWING UP IN CASS

Texas Style!!!

Aug 22nd, 2006 - 11:49 AM Re: Texas Style
Growing Up In Cass

When I was a kid growing up, I lived at Cass I remember when it was a pretty big town, Not as big at it once was. When it was a logging town it was a very big town, but when the logging quit the town got much smaller. The Cass school was was Big for such a small town. I remember the classrooms had heaters in them that were heated from steam. The steam came from the boiler room from underneath the school. Ben Jackson took care of the boiler room, I used to go down there when Ben was taking care of the fire and watch him turn this valve and that valve making sure every thing was working right.

And the lunch room it was the best around I remember standing in line going down the hall toward the gym to the last doors on the left going threw the doors to where they handed out the food And I remember the hair nets the ladies wore that was putting the food on your plate. And the plate were piled hide with food before you got to the end of the line. You set down and ate and they had people that would bring you seconds, all you had to do is raise your hand and tell them what you wanted. And Mr. Tracy would come around and see what was on your plate and if there were something you didn't have he would make you try it.

And the Gym it was the best gym around we played many a good game of basketball there. We had a team that was second to none. We had a first string that was the best and they would run the score up and the coach would pull them, and put the second string in the other team would get close and the first string would go back in. And the Harlem Globe Trotters moves remember them!!!!

And the Cheerleaders Yes I remember them!!! We can't leave the Cheerleaders out they were the best.

And the Teachers I remember them all. Miss Kerr and her ruler! Miss Adams she was the best, Miss Brown she was so good looking!!! Mr. Ruckman and his paddle I seen a many of them broke on the backside. And who all Remembers PARK IT Theodore. Just park it!!!

Yes Cass was a thriving town at one time it had five church's two beer joints, and a liquor store. And a barber-shop. I went to get my hair cut one time back then, I believe it was just a couple dollars to get a cut Of coarse every one knows Lefty shoot he been around before dirt. Well any way I went to see Lefty one day to get a hair cut. My time came around I got into the chair my hair was pretty long below my ears, it has been awhile since I had a cut I got in the chair told Lefty Just need a trim He said is that right. He took them shears started from the front and made a swipe toward the back he cut it all off. He said I know how your dad wants your hair cut!!! And it not a trim. You can't Fool old Lefty.

And who remembers the ball diamond above the town? We had some good time there, playing ball.

And wintertime we has loads of fun. Ice skating at the swinging bridge. Riding the sleds down Carol Davidson hill trying to stop before we hit the black top, and making sure no cars were coming, if we could we would turn right and end up down by Slabtown.

Riding the sleds off Cold run we had to do that before the sand trucks made it there. Pat Elza had a sled called the blue devil it was two sleds connected together now I want tell ya, that thing would fly down cold run that is if you could make it all the way. I rode off with him one day the road was plowed the day before, it was a Saturday we loaded the truck up and headed to the top of cold run Unloaded the sled Pat got on and I got on behind him and off we took. Well when we passed where the Turners lived I guess we were running around fifty miles an hours, and Pat was laughing all the way me I was hanging on for dear life. Well at the last curve where the creek runs along the road, that where all heck breaks loose. Pat is still laughing I' am scared to death and when they plow the road there a pile of snow along the road!

Well right there in that curve it was just like a launching pad we hit the snow bank went air born landed in the middle of the creek, mean while Pat is still laughing I' am hanging on we are going down the middle of the creek sparks are flying off the runners. We finally stop, Pat stand up saying lets do it again I, am still trying to pry my hands off the sled. I get up Pat looks at the sled one runner had come loose and said well we will have to get her fixed first before we can do it again! I said to my self thank you GOD!

And who remembers when we rode the car hoods and tops, around where the trash dump used to be in that long field, we used to get old truck tires and set them on fire so we could have some light. One year we were riding the cars hoods, now these were old hoods taken off junked cars we had a 48-ford cope hood it had a rounded front and was made for speed well one evening we were up there riding and Well someone wanted to ride after we talked her into it! So my brother in the back her in the middle me in the front. Well off we go faster and faster well my brother jump out, so that just leaves the two of us so we hit the bottom and up the other side we went made an half moon run and back down the other side we come There no steering these things you go where they go! Well there happen to be an n elderberry bush right in our way. We hit it threw us out Well for me it got dark I could not see could no breath, could not move she had landed right on top of me!

This is just some of the fun times we had growing up as kids



THE QUESTION OF A LEVY

Excess Levy in the Fall--How do you feel about that?

The County Commission voted to put an excess levy on the ballot for the fall election. The money is to be used to help fund the senior citizens program. Would you support the levy?

Jul 12th, 2006 - 4:38 PM Re: Excess Levy in the Fall--How do you feel about that?

The Commission did the right thing this time to put the issue before the voters, rather than raising taxes on their own as they did last time.

On the issue itself, firstly I would not trust them to use the money for its stated purpose. Also I do not believe that they spend the tax revenue they already have so wisely and so frugally that a tax increase is justified for any purpose however worthy.

The Sheriff's dep't does not need an all-SUV fleet.

The 911 service does not need a whole building.

The Commissioners did not need the illegal raise they just gave themselves

The County does not need to be funding Snowshoe's sewer project (County dollars ARE a part of that plan)

I'll let others continue this list (Will there be enough room on this site?)--**John Leyzorek**

To: John Leyzorek.
Right on. I will think on this one a couple days, and then we can try to "explode" Norman's Computer. Pretty sure we can do it. Sorry Norman, this is not aimed at you, just the fact that I think we can find so many facts on the CC's mis-use of money, that it could over ride your computers capacity.--GEORGE SHEETS

So because you are afraid that someone might miss-spend a couple of pennys somewhere, the old folks should suffer. If it takes a dollar to get 90 cents to the right place, isn't it more important to get the money to the right place. If it takes a dollar to deliver 75 cents isn't it still worth it to make sure our old folks, the people who built this county are looked after even if they don't have anyone.

While we are at it we should have an excess levy for the schools and get them back to the outstanding level they were a few years ago before we started the annual whit-tling of staff and courses. Who is going to be in charge in our old age, these kids we are educating now. If we don't do a good job, well it will be too bad for us.

One more thing, Norman is watching the school's pennys to make sure he can have some petty influence but he isn't looking for one second at whether or not the school system is effective. This petty bully is tying money up that should be used for programs and wasting it, spending a dollar to save a dime. If it takes an extra dime to give out

kid a better education, spend it and count on God to take care of who might have stolen it, if it was used with good intentions, again God will sort it out.--So who should suffer

1. Agreeing to buy \$5,000 worth of fish to stock the streams. (Waste) How many meals for the old folks would that have bought.

2. \$20,000 to the hospital to buy hospital beds. How many meals for the old folks would that have bought?

3. Selling a county vehicle privately for a pittance? How many meals for the old folks would that have bought?

4. Paying county health board members \$100 a meeting while paying nothing for other boards. How many meals for the old folks would that have bought?

5. Petitioning the tax department for a pay increase for county commissioners. How many meals for the old folks would that have bought?

6. Not forcing Walt Helmick to pay his full taxes due. How many meals for the old folks would that have bought?

7. Implementing the farmland protection transfer tax and then giving it to that board so that they can spend it to injure timbering in our county.

Just the start, Thanks John--Norman Alderman

I have no major objection but it illustrates that the County Commission has excess funds at the drop of a hat. I think that we ought to help the senior citizens out of the regular budget instead of increasing our taxes. The County Commission regularly raises our taxes. Evaluations are increasing all the time.

This county commission is wasting the money that it has. There is excess money in the budget if it were used wisely.

If we can afford to buy fish, we can afford to help the senior citizens and we don't need any more taxes to do it!

John, George, and I have already pointed out where the county wastes money. Let's cut back on the waste. Throwing more tax dollars at our problems won't solve them.

I think that our senior citizens are a high priority much higher than some of the ways we are spending our money now.

Let me give you an example. Walt Weiford has an assistant prosecutor and there are three secretaries. You can cut \$125,000 out of his one office and still get the job done? We don't need Tony Tatano and certainly we don't need three secretaries.

I would be happy to take the senior citizen's support fund

from the prosecutor's budget and provide meals and transport for the seniors.

I think that this is a good idea. What about the rest of you.-
-Norman Alderman

So while you are trying to impress everyone about how you are the champion of the people, muddying the water about where one issue stops and another begins, nothing is done. Is the money from a fired secretary going to be used for anything, no!!



So, where did all the STATE money Norman saved from the fish go. Did it benefit the county, NO!! It didn't go toward having a rich fishery to attract tourists. So what great good did it do for our people. Nope, the county lost all of it. Thanks Norman.

Someday soon we will have to have an excess levy to help fund our schools. Norman and all his helpers will find lots of reasons not to support it, and the bottom line will be that our schools will not be able teach our kids. No, money won't solve all the problems, but some of our biggest ones are money based.

Should we let our senior citizens suffer because we don't like some decisions of the county commission. Should we let our schools fail because we don't like some of the decisions of the school board. What matters is does the money do a job valuable enough to pay the price. If the price is providing employment to some useless position....like say a secretary or a technology person, then so be it. Just so we get 'er done.--Ya, Ya, we heard you before

Three secretaries for two prosecutors when you only need one prosecutor and one secretary. This ain't LA This is Pocahontas.

I say give the extra money to the senior citizens. All I have done is point out a place where \$125,000 is wasted and suggested that it be given to the senior citizens.

Norman Alderman

How bout some jobs from somebody. Everyone on this subject is talking about old people, and fishing. Neither put food on my table. I love the people of this county, and I love the county. I was born and raised in Pocahontas County, and my family has been here since the 1800's, but I'm tired of my entire family having to leave the county to feed the family. I'm for a levy, a bigger kitchen or any thing else that will put somebody to work. If we had jobs everything else would take care of itself. Do you think Nicholas county or Greenbrier county give a thought to \$450,000. That's lost or made in a month.

I would like to see some money spent to not only help the young and the old but also the middle age working class. That's the backbone of every county, but only in Pocahontas county do those folks have to leave the county for work. Therefore, grocery shopping in other counties, buying gas in other counties, and simply spending our

money in other counties. Pure and simple TAKE CARE OF THE MIDDLE AGE WORKING CLASS AND EVERYTHING ELSE WILL TAKE CARE OF ITSELF.--Uncle John

Norman, your solid suggestions for cutting expenses should be read at one of the commission meetings and made part of the record. Another cost cutter may be to have only 2 commissioners for the county: the duties are mostly clerical, are they not? The population of the county is small, the area is large but partly owned by the federal government. Are comparisons made with other rural counties to see how they take care of expenses without raising taxes?--cash registers



Support our seniors-what could be more basic than that?

Honor thy Father and thy Mother.....

Do not turn this into a political football. Vote for such a tiny amount from each of us to make sure that meals are available for our uncles, aunts, parents and grandparents. SUPPORT THE LEVY!!!!!!!--Local

Norman is in favor of the meals for seniors He thinks that there is already enough money to pay for them instead of adding a tax, which, after all, the seniors will have to pay too. There is a tendency to wax maudlin when the term "senior citizen" is heard. These meals could be cut down in size, and even in frequency, because starvation or hunger is not the nutritional problem today, in Pocahontas Co. or in most of the country: It is overnutrition, or obesity. It affects the young, middle aged, and elderly. A most interesting post would be "would you rather have an excess levy for senior meals or for a physical fitness center and swimming pool?--a senior senior

What kind of a community is this that consistently votes down levies for education and now is not even willing to tax themselves to ensure that senior citizens get meals??? How many cents will it add to your taxes? Check it out before listening to Alderman and Leyzorek's negativity. Do the right thing and see that our old people's services are not cut off. Vote for the levy!--Levy supporter

We are taxing ourselves and heavily (or perhaps I should say that the county commission is taxing us. They have installed a new farmland protection tax, they have raised our regular property taxes for the next year. They have plenty of money! All we are saying is allocate that excess money to the senior citizen's program.

I am not questioning the idea of supporting our senior citizens. In fact, I think that we can help them immediately. I know that \$125,000 can be found within our current county budget and applied immediately to the senior program.

An excess levy is not the solution to this problem. It is merely a matter of utilizing the tax money we already have freely available. I am not questioning the goal just the means to achieve that goal.

What you may not be aware of is that the state is moving

toward a major reevaluation of property values bring them up to "full market" value. With this and as I believe within five years, we will see our taxes take a giant leap forward and upward.

Taking your property is the most serious decision you can make. A lot of people lost their land in the Great Depression because they simply couldn't pay the taxes. This could easily happen again.

And don't forget that this tax is an excess levy meaning that it will be a tax on senior citizens as well. There is no exemption for the older folks. Why should they pass a tax that would take their legacy away from their own children and grandchildren?

A senior on a fixed income might end up being seriously hurt by a reappraisal and subsequent tax bills springing from that.

Seniors cannot afford to trade their homestead for a potage. Why should they lose their home merely to pay for a meal?

Excess levies are usually bad, bad ideas especially in a community or state where the valuation is starting to climb drastically.



As an example and I believe that this is one reason that an excess levy has a difficult time passing is that of education itself. Too often the money is a mere waste. A lot of folks have seen a

lot of money our board of education has wasted. Board members are now getting \$160 per meeting when it used to be \$80.

We are not depriving our children of a quality education by opposing an education levy. There is plenty of money for a quality education if they money is spent prudently.



I have taken an early stand on this levy issue because this will end up hurting the senior citizens in the long run. Seniors who have not been paying taxes for years will suddenly be paying taxes. Is that what we want for our seniors? I think not!

We can help the seniors with the resources we have now WITHOUT AN EXCESS LEVY. It is time to feed the senior citizens instead of buying fish and hospital beds.--Norman Alderman

LET'S DO IT RIGHT NOW NOT-- IN THE FALL.

Coming to Pocahontas County from Michigan, I can tell you that I was very surprised at the differences in taxes between the two states. Fire departments, libraries, senior

programs, schools and police departments are all supported by levies (mileages) in Michigan. My taxes for a 2500 square foot home on one lot of land (maybe 1/4 acre) was \$500 more than what I pay here, for a 2500 square foot home on 44 acres of land. That was in addition to all the levies. The tax money that was collected locally was handled locally, though; it wasn't sent to the capital and then sent back in ever smaller amounts.

The other major difference I noticed was in Michigan, we paid no sales tax on food. I know the CC has nothing to do with that, but it was a shock to the system!

Norman, why don't you get a breakdown of the CC's budget and how it's allocated to post here? Let people decide if it's being spent wisely or not. That would be more helpful than speculation.

And for the record, I think the hospital beds were a wise expenditure.--Vicky

\$10.00 may not seem like a lot to some, but for us it may be all we have for two weeks, until the next payday. I love this county because there is not much crime yet. I know eventually, we will have to move on. I have always been told this is a retirement county. Looks like that is true. As for the school system, it sucks. There is no difference in what is being taught now then it was 10 years ago. I do not shop here if I do not have too. I go elsewhere.--Not so young anymore

When will you all wake up to the fact that voting for a levy is the way to sock it to our ever-growing affluent county second home owners. We don't have those fabulous pieces of real estate and for every ten cents we have to pay for our lowly dwellings, they will have to pay a dollar or two dollars. Vote for the levy-that way our wealthy neighbors can help us out--whether they want to or not!--Vote in a Levy

Tax increase and the elderly--- these two subjects, together or singular, will light up E-Tater for a while. So far--response has been reasoned, polite, with very few being maudlin. Many seniors never go to the centers to eat, but take advantage of transportation, and group activities, including classes in physical fitness. These are worthwhile, even if calories have to be lowered. I too, would like to see how many voters would want an excess levy to go towards community swimming pools.--opinion researcher

Thank you Not So Young Anymore. If ***** was to read your statement maybe she would understand why taxes are lower in this county. That's because income is tremendously lower. Could a middle age couple combining to make \$16.00 an hour stand much more taxes. Please put any money to something meaningful. The wind turbines for instance is a dirty word in our area, but they would put food on a working man's table. And it would do it without a whole lot of help from the CC.--Uncle John

Hard work never hurt anybody, but then I figured why take the risk.

Where there's a will, I wanna be in it.

I'm talking to myself- please don't eavesdrop!

So while you are trying to impress everyone about how you are the champion of the people, muddying the water about where one issue stops and another begins, nothing is done. Is the money from a fired secretary going to be used for anything, no!!

So, where did all the STATE money Norman saved from the fish go. Did it benefit the county, NO!! It didn't go toward having a rich fishery to attract tourists. So what great good did it do for our people. Nope, the county lost all of it. Thanks Norman.

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I say give the extra money to the senior citizens. All I have done is point out a place where \$125,000 is wasted and suggested that it be given to the senior citizens.

By the way, what is the carry over this year. We may have enough. We had 465,000 left over last year. That could be used for the senior citizens RIGHT NOW AND EVERY YEAR FORWARD.

Senior Citizens: You need to get someone up to the courthouse to ask for the carryover before they give it away to someone else. You deserve it! AND YOU CAN HAVE IT RIGHT NOW!!!

I'll try to get up to the next meeting too and ask for it for the seniors. I am friends with two of the drivers and I know what your needs are and we need to help with transportation in addition to food.--Norman Alderman

How bout some jobs from somebody. Everyone on this subject is talking about old people, and fishing. Neither put food on my table. I love the people of this county, and I love the county. I was born and raised in Pocahontas County, and my family has been here since the 1800's, but I'm tired of my entire family having to leave the county to feed the family. I'm for a levy, a bigger kitchen or any thing else that will put somebody to work. If we had jobs everything else would take care of itself. Do you think Nicholas county or Greenbrier county give a thought to \$450,000. That's lost or made in a month. I would like to see some money spent to not only help the young and the old but also the middle age working class. Thats the backbone of every county, but only in

Pocahontas county do those folks have to leave the county for work. Therefore, grocery shopping in other counties, buying gas in other counties, and simply spending our money in other counties. Pure and simple TAKE CARE OF THE MIDDLE AGE WORKING CLASS AND EVERYTHING ELSE WILL TAKE CARE OF ITSELF.--Uncle John

Norman, your solid suggestions for cutting expenses should be read at one of the commission meetings and made part of the record. Another cost cutter may be to have only 2 commissioners for the county: the duties are mostly clerical, are they not? The population of the county is small, the area is large but partly owned by the federal government. Are comparisons made with other rural counties to see how they take care of expenses without raising taxes?--cash registers

Support our seniors-what could be more basic than that? Honor thy Father and thy Mother.....
Do not turn this into a political football. Vote for such a tiny amount from each of us to make sure that meals are available for our uncles, aunts, parents and grandparents. SUPPORT THE LEVY!!!!!!!--Local

Norman is in favor of the meals for seniors He thinks that there is already enough money to pay for them instead of adding a tax, which, after all, the seniors will have to pay too. There is a tendency to wax maudlin when the term "senior citizen" is heard. These meals could be cut down in size, and even in frequency, because starvation or hunger is not the nutritional problem today, in Pocahontas Co. or in most of the country: It is overnutrition, or obesity. It affects the young, middle aged, and elderly. A most interesting post would be "would you rather have an excess levy for senior meals or for a physical fitness center and swimming pool?--a senior senior

What kind of a community is this that consistently votes down levies for education and now is not even willing to tax themselves to ensure that senior citizens get meals??? How many cents will it add to your taxes? Check it out before listening to Alderman and Leyzorek's negativity. Do the right thing and see that our old people's services are not cut off. Vote for the levy!--Levy supporter

We are taxing ourselves and heavily (or perhaps I should say that the county commission is taxing us. They have installed a new farmland protection tax, they have raised our regular property taxes for the next year. They have plenty of money! All we are saying is allocate that excess money to the senior citizen's program.

I am not questioning the idea of supporting our senior citizens. In fact, I think that we can help them immediately. I know that \$125,000 can be found within our current county budget and applied immediately to the senior program.

An excess levy is not the solution to this problem. It is merely a matter of utilizing the tax money we already have freely available. I am not questioning the goal just the means to achieve that goal.

What you may not be aware of is that the state is moving

toward a major reevaluation of property values bring them up to "full market" value. With this and as I believe within five years, we will see our taxes take a giant leap forward and upward.

Taking your property is the most serious decision you can make. A lot of people lost their land in the Great Depression because they simply couldn't pay the taxes. This could easily happen again.

And don't forget that this tax is an excess levy meaning that it will be a tax on senior citizens as well. There is no exemption for the older folks. Why should they pass a tax that would take their legacy away from their own children and grandchildren?

A senior on a fixed income might end up being seriously hurt by a reappraisal and subsequent tax bills springing from that.

Seniors cannot afford to trade their homestead for a pottage. Why should they lose their home merely to pay for a meal?

Excess levies are usually bad, bad ideas especially in a community or state where the valuation is starting to climb drastically.

As an example and I believe that this is one reason that an excess levy has a difficult time passing is that of education itself. Too often the money is a mere waste. A lot of folks have seen a lot of money our board of education has wasted. Board members are now getting \$160 per meeting when it used to be \$80.

We are not depriving our children of a quality education by opposing an education levy. There is plenty of money for a quality education if the money is spent prudently.

I have taken an early stand on this levy issue because this will end up hurting the senior citizens in the long run. Seniors who have not been paying taxes for years will suddenly be paying taxes. Is that what we want for our seniors? I think not!

We can help the seniors with the resources we have now WITHOUT AN EXCESS LEVY. It is time to feed the senior citizens instead of buying fish and hospital beds.--Norman Alderman

LET'S DO IT RIGHT NOW NOT-- IN THE FALL.

Coming to Pocahontas County from Michigan, I can tell you that I was very surprised at the differences in taxes between the two states. Fire departments, libraries, senior programs, schools and police departments are all supported by levies (mileages) in Michigan. My taxes for a 2500 square foot home on one lot of land (maybe 1/4 acre) was \$500 more than what I pay here, for a 2500 square foot home on 44 acres of land. That was in addition to all the levies. The tax money that was collected locally was handled locally, though; it wasn't sent to the capital and then sent back in ever smaller amounts. The other major difference I noticed was in Michigan, we paid no sales tax on food. I know the CC has nothing to do with that, but it was a shock to the system!

Excess Levy in the Fall--How do you feel about that?-- From the Forum Writers

The County Commission voted to put an excess levy on the ballot for the fall election. The money is to be used to help fund the senior citizens program. Would you support the levy?

Jul 12th, 2006 - 4:38 PM Re: Excess Levy in the Fall--How do you feel about that?

The Commission did the right thing this time to put the issue before the voters, rather than raising taxes on their own as they did last time.

On the issue itself, firstly I would not trust them to use the money for its stated purpose.
Also I do not believe that they spend the tax revenue they already have so wisely and so frugally that a tax increase is justified for any purpose however worthy.

The Sheriff's dep't does not need an all-SUV fleet.

The 911 service does not need a whole building.

The Commissioners did not need the illegal raise they just gave themselves

The County does not need to be funding Snowshoe's sewer project (County dollars ARE a part of that plan)

I'll let others continue this list (Will there be enough room on this site?)--John Leyzorek

To: John Leyzorek.

Right on. I will think on this one a couple days, and then we can try to "explode" Norman's Computer. Pretty sure we can do it. Sorry Norman, this is not aimed at you, just the fact that I think we can find so many facts on the CC's mis-use of money, that it could over ride your computers capacity.--GEORGE SHEETS

So because you are afraid that someone might miss-spend a couple of pennys somewhere, the old folks should suffer. If it takes a dollar to get 90 cents to the right place, isn't it more important to get the money to the right place. If it takes a dollar to deliver 75 cents isn't it still worth it to make sure our old folks, the people who built this county are looked after even if they don't have anyone.

While we are at it we should have an excess levy for the schools and get them back to the outstanding level they were a few years ago before we started the annual whit-ting of staff and courses. Who is going to be in charge in our old age, these kids we are educating now. If we don't do a good job, well it will be too bad for us.

One more thing, Norman is watching the school's pennys

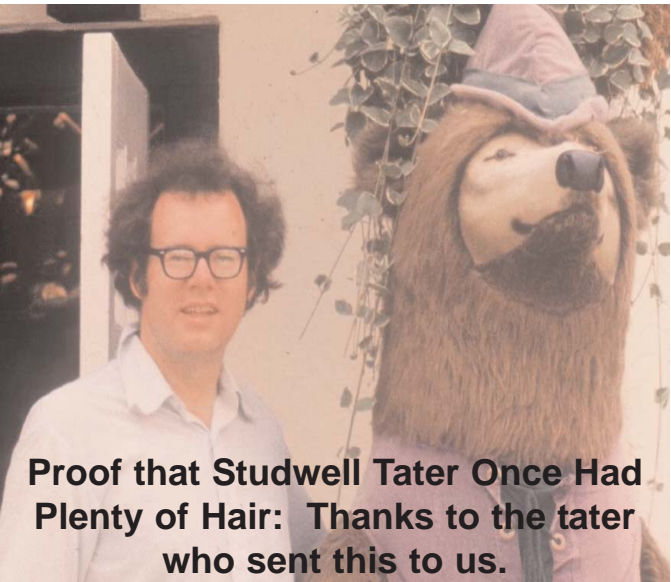
to make sure he can have some petty influence but he isn't looking for one second at whether or not the school sys-tem is effective. This petty bully is tying money up that should be used for programs and wasting it, spending a dollar to save a dime. If it takes an extra dime to give out kid a better education, spend it and count on God to take care of who might have stolen it, if it was used with good intentions, again God will sort it out.--So who should suf-fer

- 1. Agreeing to buy \$5,000 worth of fish to stock the streams. (Waste) How many meals for the old folks would that have bought?
- 2. \$20,000 to the hospital to buy hospital beds. How many meals for the old folks would that have bought?
- 3. Selling a county vehicle privately for a pittance? How many meals for the old folks would that have bought?
- 4. Paying county health board members \$100 a meeting while paying nothing for other boards. How many meals for the old folks would that have bought?
- 5. Petitioning the tax department for a pay increase for county commissioners. How many meals for the old folks would that have bought?
- 6. Not forcing Walt Helmick to pay his full taxes due. How many meals for the old folks would that have bought?
- 7. Implementing the farmland protection transfer tax and then giving it to that board so that they can spend it to injure timbering in our county.

Just the start, Thanks John--Norman Alderman

I have no major objection but it illustrates that the County Commission has excess funds at the drop of a hat. I think that we ought to help the senior citizens out of the regular budget instead of increasing our taxes. The County Commission regularly raises our taxes. Evaluations are increasing all the time.

This county commission is wasting the money that it has.



Proof that Studwell Tater Once Had Plenty of Hair: Thanks to the tater who sent this to us.

There is excess money in the budget if it were used wisely.

If we can afford to buy fish, we can afford to help the senior citizens and we don't need any more taxes to do it!

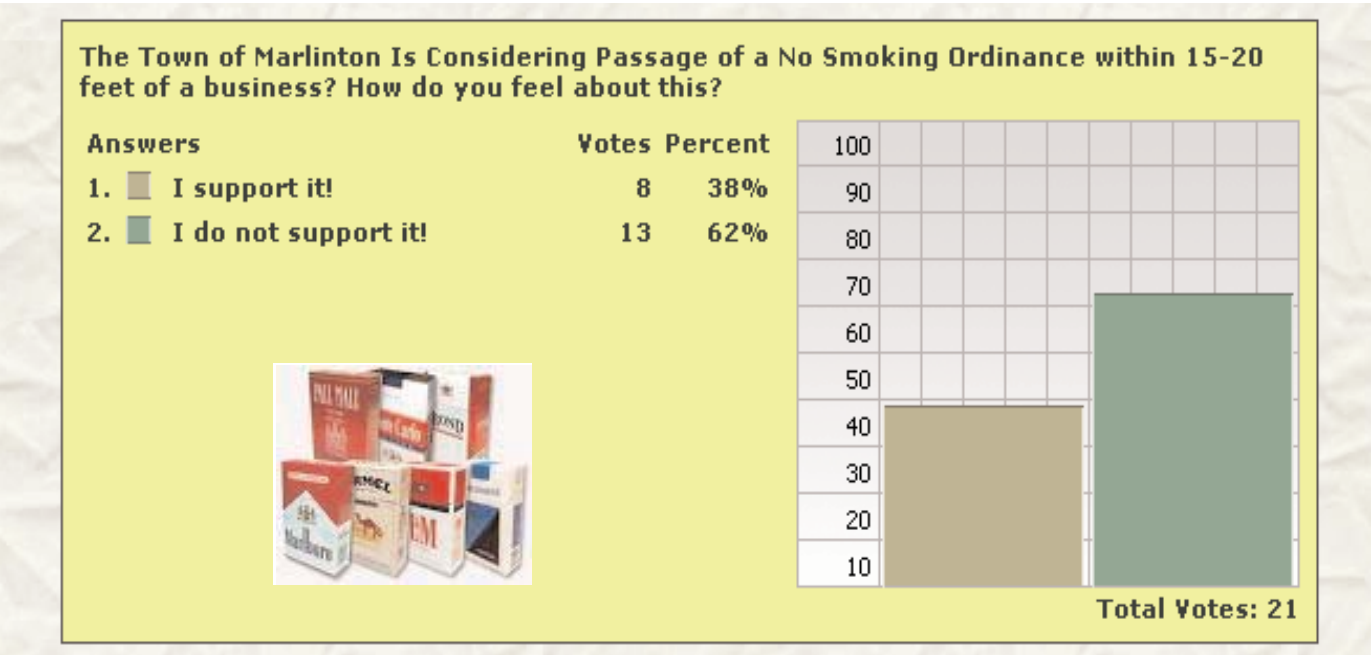
John, George, and I have already pointed out where the county wastes money. Let's cut back on the waste. Throwing more tax dollars at our problems won't solve them.

I think that our senior citizens are a high priority much higher than some of the ways we are spending our money now.

Let me give you an example. Walt Weiford has an assis-tant prosecutor and there are three secretaries. You can cut \$125,000 out of his one office and still get the job done? We don't need Tony Tatano and certainly we don't need three secretaries.

I would be happy to take the senior citizen's support fund from the prosecutor's budget and provide meals and trans-port for the seniors.

I think that this is a good idea. What about the rest of you.-



Thanks, Vicky. I went to the courthouse this morning but they don't have the final carryover listed. I did find that they have a \$122,000 carry over in coal severance. They could allocate this immediately to the senior citizens.

I am hearing that there is serious doubt that the levy will pass. People in Pocahontas are very wary how excess levies even refusing one of the school system in recent years.

I have someone checking to see if the senior citizens have to pay this tax too. They are exempt but are they exempt for an excess levy. If they are not exempt this levy could cause them to have to pay taxes which they haven't paid in years.

I know for a fact that some senior citizens are having to choose between food and medicine so even the smallest tax increase could hurt them very badly.

Then too the way the current county commission is raising taxes and with regular reappraisals of our property we could easily see a skyrocketing of our basic tax bills over a five year period.

I am for making the senior citizens a routine, regular, and obligated part of the county budget. The coal severance tax is just \$3,000 short of that. I know of several ways we can adjust the county budget so that it accommodates the senior citizens.

And I have proof that my idea will work and work effectively. I don't disagree for a moment that our senior citizens need our support. I want to give them support by the end of July of 2006.--Norman Alderman

To *****: I didn't want to confuse the following with the senior citizens question.

I hear that the library is running serious short of money. (Correct me if I am wrong) I personally believe that it is time to reconsider how the county spends excess funds. I believe that the library should be included in the county's regular budget along with the senior citizens. Now I may be wrong and we will know shortly if I am wrong about the carry over.

If there is a large carryover, it indicates the court is either overtaxing the people or it is not spending the money appropriately. So the money should either go back to the people or be used to fund worthy programs for the citizens.

I believe that the senior centers and the libraries are basic functions in our county which deserve our support--through a regular budget--rather than excess levies.

Excess levies are difficult because it makes the receivers have to constantly justify their services or the voters won't renew the levy the next time. Our senior citizens are worthy of our regular support; they should not be subjected to the rigors of an election every five years just to put food on their plates.

Why don't we just include them in the budget (library and senior citizens) as a routine thing. This is a geriatric county. Our senior citizens deserve to be a regular part of our budget.

Someone has said that the mark of a civilization is determined by the way they treat the elderly. I believe this to be the case.

LET'S DO WHAT'S RIGHT NOW NOT LATER. LET'S MAKE THEM A ROUTINE PART OF OUR COUNTY BUDGET.--Norman Alderman

I feel that the county commission should give a portion of there excess to the senior programs. Also we should come up with a solution as a county without having to raise anyone's taxes. The churches in the county could start and food collection at there churches or start a fund at each church to be donated to the senior citizens programs. gardeners who have excess in there gardens could donate food to the seniors or perhaps some farmers would be willing to donate a beef to the program. And civic organizations could volunteer to help out with cooking and activities to cut down on cost. There are things we all can do to help the seniors, but the most important thing is that without them none of us would be living here today--tnt

DURABILITY OF A HORSE.

A horse will travel 400 yards in 4-1/2 minutes at a walk, 400 yards in 2 minutes at a trot, and 400 yards in minute at a gallop. The usual work of a horse is taken at 22,500 lbs. raised 1 foot per minute, for 8 hours per day. A horse will carry 250 lbs. 25 miles per day of 8 hours. An average draught-horse will draw 1600 lbs. 23 miles per day on a level road, weight of wagon included. The average weight of a horse is 1000 lbs.; his strength is equal to that of 5 men. In a horse mill moving at 3 feet per second, track 25 feet diameter, he exerts with the machine the power of 4-1/2 horses. The greatest amount a horse can pull in a horizontal line is 900 lbs.; but he can only do this momentarily, in continued exertion, probably half of this is the limit. He attains his growth in 5 years, will live 25, average 16 years. A horse will live 25 days on water, without solid food, 17 days without eating or drinking, but only 5 days on solid food, without drinking.

A cart drawn by horses over an ordinary road will travel 1.1 miles per hour of trip. A 4-horse team will haul from 25 to 30 cubic feet of lime stone at each load. The time expended in loading, unloading, etc., including delavs, averages 35 minutes per trip. The cost of loading and unloading a cart, using a horse cram at the quarry, and unloading by hand, when labor is \$1.25 per day, and a horse 75 cents, is 25 cents per perch--24.75 cubic feet. The work done by an animal is greatest when the velocity with which he moves is 1/8 of the greatest with which he can move when not impeded, and the force then exerted .45 of the utmost force the animal can exert at a dead pull.



To a senior: Senior, What do you mean cut down the size and frequency of the senior meals??? I have an idea - you eat only one meal a day - and make it half of your usual meal, put the money you save by not eating in a jar and you fund the pool and physical fitness center etc with that!-Ann

I have to agree with Uncle John. It is the young and middle aged that are hurting. My other half and I make 16.00 hr. together an hour. That sounds like a lot, but it's not. The net pay that we bring home is not enough to live and raise o Everything in this county keeps going up, except the pay.

BIG FOOT FILES COMPLAINT OVER SMELL STORY

Whoa there lets leave me out of this all right. I've got enough of my own problems. Do you even know what its like to be in my position? First of all do you know what it costs to have size 24 1/2 6E shoes made? Second, being just over seven foot tall you tend to hit your head on everything. Forget trying to find cloths that fit at Wal-Mart. Third, I had to get a carpet cleaner just to keep myself relatively clean. No musky smell here. Fourth, if I do come into town Norman may be there with his camera at the ready. It's like he's with the paparazzi or something. Fifth, I really get tired of the "Loved you in Star Wars" jokes. I have never met Harrison Ford or been his co-pilot. Please just leave me be and aggregate someone else. Now if you will excuse me, I have to send a letter to my friend Ness in Scotland. - H.H.Bigfoot



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like a lot to some, but for us it may be all we have for two weeks, until the next payday. I love this county because there is not much crime yet. I know eventually, we will have to move on. I have always been told this is a retirement county. Looks like that is true. As for the school system, it sucks. There is no difference in what is being taught now then it was 10 years ago. I do not shop here if I do not have too. I go elsewhere.--**Not so young anymore.**

COULD WE HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE

As I set here in my office Reading the e-tator about all the going on back home .I wonder about the town of Cass. Where I went to school and grew up, I started thinking about the swimming hole at deer creek, the Pier, The dog days of Summer Where we spend many of days swimming and having fun, I remember coming home from school getting our chores and homework done. Grabbing the bar of ivory soap (the only soap that floats) and heading to the swimming hole to swim and take a bath.

The pier had a ladder on the side of it we used to climb up on top and jump off. We some time dove off when we got up the nerve. And fishing when we had time. All the people we grew up with wondering where they are now and what they are doing now days. When I went back home a few years back the Old home place there at Deer Creek had burnt down .As I set here in my office I can see the old home place,

The back porch, the kitchen, I can see the wood burning stove mom cooked on can almost smell the home made bread and rolls she used to make (God I wish I could turn back time) Life back then was so simple I just wish I had slow down and enjoyed it more, instead all I wanted to do is grow up!!!

I can see the old water dipper that hung on the back porch that we used to get a drink out of when we were kids, the old socks dad used to dry seeds in for planting next year, He would put tomatoes in one, squeeze all the juice out and let them dry, Then when he needed the seeds he would just turn the sock in side out remove the seeds place them in a jar and do it all over again. And the coal shed where we ordered coal they would deliver it unload it. To be burnt in the winter for heat, and the woodpile Man it was big as a mountain when I was a kid, as high as dad could pile it. Used to watch him split wood hour on end, and my job was to stack it in the wood shed, And yes there an art to stacking it, the big ends goes on the out side this way it would shift the weight inward instead of outward ... And split kindling was another of my chores...

And dad had an old grinding wheel on a stand it had an old tire cut in half that held water to keep the stone wet another job of mine was turning the wheel so dad could sharpen the ax. Some time I would be in a bit of a hurry so I would turn the wheel a little to fast this would get dad a little wet with water, Dad would never say a word he would just apply a little more pressure to the wheel making it hard to turn. So many changes have come to past from when I was a kid growing up.

I wonder if I could have changed anything if I stayed around? Or saved some of the old places like the sun perch hole that used to be at Deer Creek I spent many of days catching sun perch putting them in a bucket and at the end of the day turning them loose. I believe the state filled it in.... was afraid some one would get hurt. Well they did the kids that grew up around there. Are the ones that got hurt by taking it away. Would have been nice to take the grand kids there and show them what we did as kids growing up, and even let them catch a few sun perch. Could we have made a difference?

I killed my first squirrel down by the boat landing in the big oak tree at the lower end. I fished many a nights at the boat landing and at the muskrat hole jitter bugging for bass never getting tired of hearing the blup blup blup of that broken back jitter bug coming across the water just waiting for that strike. I remember getting up in the mornings to head for school walk out on the front porch look across the railroad track to see the frog rising off the Greenbrier River. All the way from Cass down pass the boat landing toward Raywood. I would walk down the railroad tracks to Raywood to go ground hog hunting Now it's a walking trail no guns allow They call it a state park What a joke. All the places you can walk why did we need another. Could we have made a difference?

Could we have made a difference if we stayed around? I would not have changed my life for anything when I was a kid growing up it was some of the best times ever. They always say. You don't know what you had till its gone.How true.

How to Give a Pill to a Cat

Pick cat up and cradle it in the crook of your left arm as if holding a baby. Position right fore finger and thumb on either of side of cat's mouth and gently apply pressure to cheek while holding pill in right hand. As cat opens mouth, pop pill into mouth. Allow cat to close mouth and swallow.

Retrieve pill from floor and cat from behind sofa. Cradle cat in left arm and repeat process.

Retrieve cat from bedroom, and throw soggy pill away.

Take new pill from foil wrapper, cradle cat in left arm holding rear paws tightly with left hand. Force jaws open and push pill to back of mouth with right fore finger. Hold mouth shut for a count of ten.

Retrieve pill from goldfish bowl and cat from top of wardrobe. Pull spouse from garden.

Kneel on floor with cat wedged firmly between knees, holding front and rear paws. Ignore low growl emitted by cat. Get spouse to hold cat's head firmly with one hand while forcing wooden ruler into mouth. Drop pill down ruler and rub cats throat vigorously.

Retrieve cat from curtain rail, get another pill from foil wrapper. Make note to buy new ruler and repair curtains. Carefully sweep shattered figures from hearth and set to one side for gluing later.

Wrap cat in large towel and get spouse to lie on cat with its head just visible from below spouse's armpit. Put pill in end of drinking straw; force cat's mouth open with pencil and blow down drinking straw

Check label to make sure pill not harmful to humans, drink glass of water to take taste away. Apply bandage to spouses forearm and remove blood from carpet with cold water and soap.

Retrieve cat from neighbor's shed. Get another pill. Place cat in cupboard and close door on to neck to leave head showing. Force mouth open with dessert spoon. Flick pill down throat with elastic band.

Fetch screwdriver from garage and put door back on hinges. Apply cold compress to cheek and check records for date of last tetanus shot. Throw T-shirt away and fetch new one from bedroom.

Ring fire brigade to retrieve cat from tree across the road. Apologize to neighbor who crashed into fence whilst swerving to avoid cat. Take last pill from foil wrap.

Tie cat's front paws to rear paws with garden twine and bind tightly to leg of dining table. Find heavy duty pruning gloves from shed. Force cat's mouth open with small spanner. Push pill into mouth followed by large piece of fillet steak. Hold head vertically and pour pint of water down throat to wash pill down.

Get spouse to drive you to hospital; sit quietly while doctor stitches finger and forearm and removes pill remnants from right eye. Stop by furniture shop on way home to order new table. **Arrange for SPCA to collect cat.**

The Wit and Wisdom of George Carlin

As a matter of principle, I never attend the first annual anything.

Frisbeetarianism is the belief that when you die, your soul goes up on the roof and gets stuck.

Honesty may be the best policy, but it's important to remember that apparently, by elimination, dishonesty is the second-best policy.

I think it's the duty of the comedian to find out where the line is drawn and cross it deliberately.

I'm completely in favor of the separation of Church and State. My idea is that these two institutions screw us up enough on their own, so both of them together is certain death.

I'm not concerned about all hell breaking loose, but that a PART of hell will break loose... it'll be much harder to detect.

If it's true that our species is alone in the universe, then I'd have to say that the universe aimed rather low and settled for very little.

If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, doesn't it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted?

It's never just a game when you're winning.

Some national parks have long waiting lists for camping reservations. When you have to wait a year to sleep next to a tree, something is wrong.

There's no present. There's only the immediate future and the recent past.

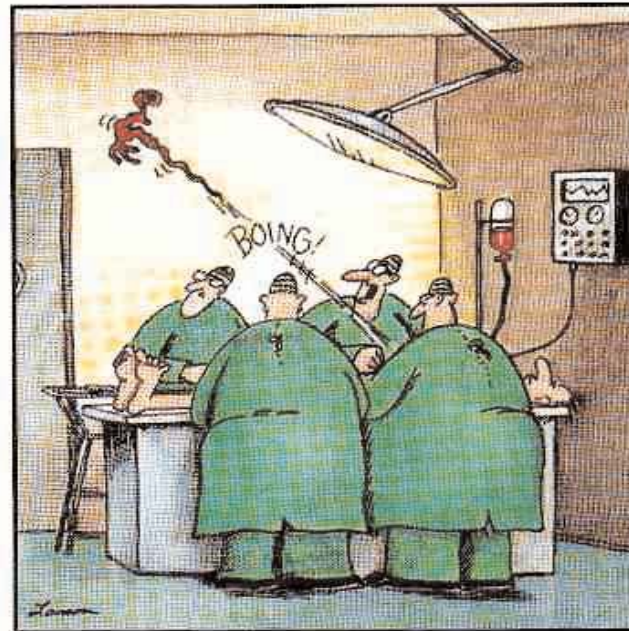
Think of how stupid the average person is, and realize half of them are stupider than that.

Weather forecast for tonight: dark. Continued dark overnight, with widely scattered light by morning.

Well, if crime fighters fight crime and fire fighters fight fire, what do freedom fighters fight? They never mention that part to us, do they?

When someone asks you, A penny for your thoughts, and you put your two cents in, what happens to the other penny?

I don't have hobbies; hobbies cost money. Interests are quite free.



"Whoa! Watch where that thing lands—we'll probably need it."

Everything I Needed to Know About Surgery I Learned In Kindergarten

It's true. Scarily so, in fact. First round observations and lessons gleaned from POD #0 (post-op day zero, shorthand for the day of a surgery) of my surgery rotation:

Top 10 Rules of the Operating Room:

1. Wash your hands.
2. Always wear your coat and gloves or you might catch something.
3. Don't forget to pee before you get dressed up to go.
4. Keep your hands to yourself.
5. Don't touch dirty stuff if you're clean.
6. Don't touch clean stuff if you're dirty.
7. Do whatever the teacher tells you to do or you might get yelled at.
8. Don't ask too many questions or you might get yelled at.
9. Don't play with knives or someone might get hurt.
10. Clean up after yourself.

HOW TO GET RID OF FLEAS.--Much of the largest number of fleas are brought into our family circles by pet dogs and cats. The oil of pennyroyal will drive these insects off: but a cheaper method, where the herb flourishes, is to throw your cats and dogs into a decoction of it once a week. When the herb cannot be got, the oil can be procured. In this case, saturate strings with it and tie them around the necks of the dogs and cats. These applications should be repeated every twelve or fifteen days. Mint freshly cut, and hung round a bedstead, or on the furniture, will prevent annoyance from bed insects; a few drops of essential oil of lavender will be

Pocahontas Wood's Rationale for Having Secret Meetings Despite the Fact that they get hundreds of thousands of government dollars for the Pocahontas County Commission

OPEN MEETINGS ADVISORY OPINION NO. 2003-09

Issued On September 4, 2003 By The

WEST VIRGINIA ETHICS COMMISSION
COMMITTEE ON OPEN GOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS

OPINION SOUGHT

Pocahontas Woods, Inc. asks if the Open Governmental Proceedings Act applies to that organization.

FACTS RELIED UPON BY THE COMMITTEE

Pocahontas Woods is a non-profit corporation established to promote the beneficial use of forest resources in and around Pocahontas County. The organization is substantially funded with State Forest Service funds, allocated through the Pocahontas County Commission.

CODE PROVISIONS RELIED UPON BY THE COMMITTEE

W. Va. Code §6-9A-2(6) defines a "public agency" as: "[a]ny administrative or legislative unit of state, county or municipal government, including any department, division, bureau, office, commission, authority, board, public corporation, section, committee, subcommittee or any other agency or subunit of the foregoing authorized by law to exercise some portion of executive or legislative power."

ADVISORY OPINION

The Open Meetings Act applies only to public agencies, that is "any administrative unit of state, county, or municipal government, ... public corporation ... or any other agency or subunit of the foregoing, authorized by law to exercise some portion of executive or legislative power."

Pocahontas Woods is neither a unit of state, county, or municipal government nor a "public corporation." A public corporation is a corporation created by state or local authority to carry out a governmental function. The source of an organization's funding is ordinarily not a controlling factor in determining whether an organization is a public corporation.

Pocahontas Woods was not created by state or local authority to carry out a governmental function. It exists

The Real Truth About the Sewer Plant

Thursday August 3, 2006
The Pocahontas Times
Calvin Hill's Resignation Letter

I am writing this letter because I want to do the right thing and be fair with the people. I recently resigned as chairman of the Public Service District after serving for a good while. I have had some things on my mind that concern me that I want to share with you.

The PSD was having trouble paying its bills so we agreed to take on Snowshoe's sewer customers because we were told it was a way of getting out of debt. However, I am unhappy with recent developments. I feel like there were very important issues that should have been brought to our attention that were decided behind closed doors without my knowledge. Meetings were held in Charleston and elsewhere that we were not invited to or informed about. I don't like the way things have been going on behind our backs. The attorney, Tom Michael, seems to be running the show.

Our plant manager, who is not a member of the PSD board, was sent last week by Mr. Michael to my house to discuss the water plant and to sign checks.

I felt uncomfortable making decisions about the water plant without the other board members present. In my mind, a special meeting should have taken place with the entire board.

The county commission should be working with us so we can all pull together to make the right decisions for the community, but this is not happening. I am receiving lots of letters from citizens expressing their opposition to the location of the sewer plant and the use of eminent domain. These are also some of my concerns and have been weighing heavily on my mind.

I am not happy about how information was withheld from us during our decision making. The proper information at the right time would have allowed us to make the best decisions. In all good conscience, I believe Snowshoe should stand on its own two feet and take care of the sewer itself.

I am proud to have served on the PSD.

I am asking Joel Callison to reconsider his stance on eminent domain for the Sharp Farm. He has been dedicated to the citizens of Pocahontas County. He will regain their much-deserved support if he listens to the people and does the right thing. He has been a great supporter of growth of tourism that has steadily increased. He has increased jobs and new businesses for our county. Joel is also a member of the Pocahontas County Farm Bureau and helped create the local Farmland Protection program ensuring that future generations would have farmland in our county.

Let's help save the Sharp Farm, as well, for future generations.

Sincerely,
Calvin Hill
Durbin

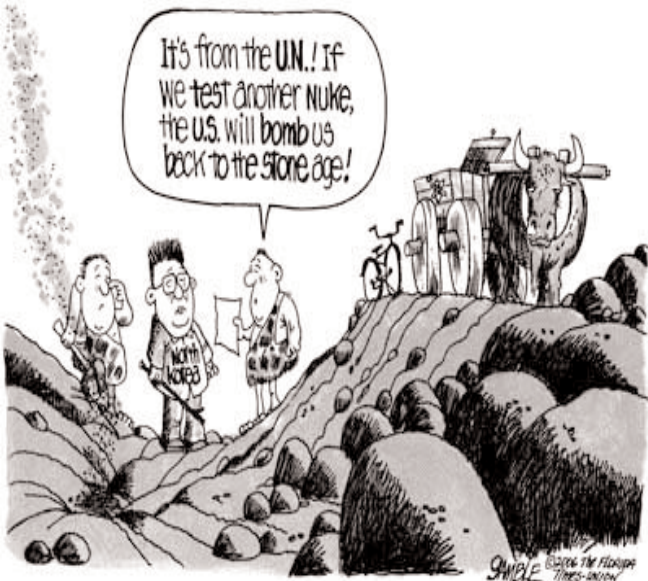
independent of state authorization, and the Committee finds that it is not a public corporation and, therefore, is not subject to the Act.

So if they were not an official body of government what right did the state ethics committee have to declare them private?

HOW TO SHELL BEANS EASY.--Pour upon the pods a quantity of scalding water, and the beans will slip very easily from the pod. By pouring scalding water on apples the skin may be easily slipped off, and much

No, McCain can be **CONDI** 08 
HER running mate!

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Trail's End at \$39.95 per night 

How many existentialists does it take to change a Lightbulb?

Two. One to screw it in, and one to observe how the lightbulb itself symbolizes a single incandescent beacon of subjective reality in a netherworld of endless absurdity reaching out toward a maudlin cosmos of nothingness.

We know more about the surface of the moon than we do about the bottom of then

Why do seagulls fly over the sea?
Because if they flew over the bay, they'd be

I would like to go to Holland some day.

Do you know what you get if you throw a hand grenade into a French Kitchen?
Linoleum Blownapart

Office of the Governor
State Capitol
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East
Charleston, WV 25305

State of West Virginia
Joe Manchin III
Governor

August 12, 2005

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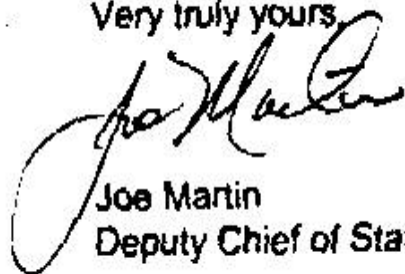
Ms. Cynthia Smith
Office of the Governor
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Dear Cindy:

Please be advised that I have approved the disbursement from the Contingency Fund of \$2,500 to the Pocahontas County Board of Education to be used for equipment.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,


Joe Martin
Deputy Chief of Staff

Here's proof that Dr. Law and Alice Irvine were supposed to buy equipment for the golf team. Instead they used the money for travel for the coach who was formerly Walt Helmick's employee. We got this from the governor's office via a Freedom of Information letter.

OF Beer and Breathalyzers--From etater forum

Don't Understand

Don't understand the reason a breathalyzer is put in vehicles after DUI! You can still drink and drive. Other people just blow in it and the car starts right up. So, if that can happen then what's the use. I guess it's a money maker because it has to be rented.

I just **** in mine and it starts right up.....get better mileage too!

Someone else can blow in it to get it started, yes, but as the person drives the breathilizer will beep sporadically asking the driving to blow again. It could be five minutes or two minutes or every ten minutes, but it continually asks you to blow as long as the car is running. To drive drunk you would have to bring the friend that blew in the breathilizer for you along, and if he can blow in the breathilizer and is not drunk and coming along with you then why isn't he driving in the first place?

Couldn't someone just stick their kid up there and make them blow in it?

What kind of *** drive around drunk with their kids in the car??? And no, they probably couldn't anyway. Those breathilizers are tricky. You have to hum and blow in them for about ten seconds before they get a reading

First of all..those things are just a money making gimmick. You either pay the monthly fee or lose your license. Most people will find a way to pay the monthly fee. I'm sure its a HUGH income for the State. Secondly, yes, you don't blow it in once and your good to go. As you are driving along, it will ask you several times to continue blowing it. Again, its a money maker....but, it does allow you to keep driving. I would never risk blowing in one for a drunk person. What if they wrecked and killed someone ? You would probably be an accessory to murder. Not worth it. Get a DD if you are going to go out and drink..its quite simple.

I know someone who had one and he had to pay a couple of hundred bucks every other month to have it "serviced" meaning he would bring it inand they would check to make sure there were no failed tests, etc. Sometimes the thing would fail him after he ate something with onions in it or spicy foods. When you get failed the whole automobile locks down

Why is there an expiration date on sour cream?

Right-handed people live, on average, nine years longer than left-handed people do. (If you're ambidextrous do you split the difference?)

COUNTY COMMISSION HAS \$750,000 CARRYOVER.

Call it carryover, surplus, extra; call it what you will it means that the county commissioners, Joel Callison, James Carpenter, and Reta Griffith OVERTAXED US BY THREE QUARTERS OF A MILLION DOLLARS.

You remember that I sued the county, not once but twice to stop the imposition of the excess levy. I lost that bid (battle) but not the war. NOW EVERYONE CAN SEE THAT WE WERE RIGHT AND THE COMMISSION WAS WRONG. They illegally overtaxed us. That was the result of what I call the great "April Fool's day tax massacre. It was on that day that they voted to extend the levy.



This is at least the second time in two years that they commission has overtaxed the county. The year before it was \$461,000; this year it is \$750,000. Will it be a million next year?

In the Great Depression, the WV taxes got so bad that people lost their farms for lack of money to pay them. That's why they voted the West Virginia Property Tax Limitation amendment which increase the difficulty with which local governments can raise taxes. What we say last year was an illegal runaround of that protection and ended up with a 9% increase in taxes.

So I say either use it for a good purpose or give it back. If they won't give it back, then why not fund the senior citizens for the next five years out of it. THEN WE WOULD-N'T NEED TO HAVE AN EXCESS TAX LEVY AT ALL.

Why should we have an "excess" levy to raise more funds when we already have an "excess" of \$750,000. This carry over is our big chance to shore up our senior citizens, the library, and emergency medical services.

JOEL, JAMES, AND RETA: Please give this surplus to those who really need it like our senior citizens, etc.

How can you expect us to impose an excess levy when your are running over with money?

It is time to stop overtaxing the people of this county?

Guess who gets your property when you can't pay your taxes?

Re: COUNTY COMMISSION HAS \$750,000 CARRY-OVER.

But this tax was a quantum leap forward. 461,000 the year before, 750,000 this year. It will go over a million next year. A million dollars in overtaxation. And they did it illegally.

Now after they have done all they can do, they want us to vote our own tax increase this fall. This is financial suicide!

I am reminded of the frog he was put in cool water on the stove. As the heat rose he never moved until finally he was cooked. ONE degree at a time over time, and no more frog.

A dollar here, a dollar there and pretty soon we won't even be able to afford our homes.

WV is has the lowest median income in the nation; It has the 13th highest property tax rate.

The county commission claimed they needed more money. Well obviously they didn't!

Then someone decided we had to have an excess levy! I sure wouldn't want to have these guys giving me a blood transfusion.

Having a "carryover" is a fancy way of saying "we taxed you all too much last year!"--Studwell Tater



In the Great Depression, the WV taxes got so bad that people lost their farms for lack of money to pay them. That's why they voted the West Virginia Property Tax Limitation amendment which increase the difficulty with which local governments can raise taxes. What we say last year was an illegal runaround of that protection and ended up with a 9% increase in taxes.

The county commission claimed they needed more money. Well obviously they didn't!

How long will we sit around and let the County Commission mess over us?

FREE TO GOOD HOME

	
Beautiful 6 mo. old male kitten - orange & caramel tabby, playful, friendly, very affectionate. Ideal for family w/kids.	Handsome 32 yr. old husband - personable, funny, good job, but doesn't like cats. Says he goes or cat goes.
<--> OR <-->	
Call Jennifer - 265-5543 - come see both & decide which you'd like.	



Don't Forget that Waitresses Depend Upon Your Tip to Feed Their Kids!!

HOW TO MAKE PRESERVES OF VARIOUS KINDS

APPLE JAM.--Fill a wide jar nearly half full of water; cut the apples unpeeled into quarters, take out the core, then fill the jar with the apples; tie a paper over it, and put it into a slow oven. When quite soft and cool, pulp them through a sieve. To each pound of pulp put three-quarters of a pound of crushed sugar, and boil it gently until it will jelly. Put it into large tart dishes or jars. It will keep for five or more years in a cool, dry place. If for present use, or a month hence, half a pound of sugar is enough.

APPLE MARMALADE.--Scald apples till they will pulp from the core; then take an equal weight of sugar in large lumps, just dip them in water, and boil it till it can be well skimmed, and is a thick syrup, put to it the pulp, and simmer it on a quick fire a quarter of an hour. Grate a little lemon-peel before boiled, but if too much it will be bitter.

BARBERRY JAM.--The barberries for this preserve should be quite ripe, though they should not be allowed to hang until they begin to decay. Strip them from the stalks; throw aside such as are spotted, and for one pound of fruit allow eighteen ounces well-refined sugar; boil this, with about a pint of water to every four pounds, until it becomes white, and falls in thick masses from the spoon; then throw in the fruit, and keep it stirred over a brisk fire for six minutes only; take off the scum, and pour it into jars or glasses. Sugar four and a half pounds; water a pint and a quarter, boil to candy height; barberries four pounds; six minutes.

HOW TO PRESERVE BLACK CURRANTS.--Get the currants when they are dry, and pick them; to every 1-1/4 lbs. of currants put 1 lb. of sugar into a preserving pan, with as much juice of currants as will dissolve it; when it boils skim it, and put in the currants, and boil them till they are clear; put them into a jar, lay brandy paper over them, tie them down, and keep in a dry place. A little raspberry juice is an improvement.

CHERRY JAM.--Pick and stone 4 lbs. of May-duke cherries; press them through a sieve; then boil together half a pint of red currant or raspberry juice, and 3/4 lb. of white sugar, put the cherries into them while boiling; add 1 lb. of fine white sugar. Boil quickly 35 minutes, jar, and cover well.

CHERRY MARMALADE.--Take so very ripe cherries; cut off the stalks and take out the stones; crush them and boil them well; put them into a hand sieve, and force them through with a spatula, till the whole is pressed through and nothing remains but the skins; put it again upon the fire to dry; when reduced to half weigh it, and add an equal weight of sugar; boil again; and when it threads between the fingers, it is finished.

HOW TO PRESERVE WHOLE STRAWBERRIES

--Take equal weights of the fruit and refined sugar, lay the former in a large dish, and sprinkle half the sugar in fine powder over, give a gentle shake to the dish that the sugar may touch the whole of the fruit; next day make a thin syrup with the remainder of the sugar, and instead of water allow one pint of red currant juice to every pound of strawberries; in this simmer them until sufficiently jellied.

HOW TO PRESERVE GRAPES.--Into an air-tight cask put a layer of bran dried in an oven; upon this place a layer of grapes, well dried, and not quite ripe, and so on alternately till the barrel is filled; end with bran, and close air-tight; they will keep 9 or 10 months. To restore them to their original freshness, cut the end off each bunch stalk, and put into wine, like flowers. Or,

Bunches of grapes may be preserved through winter by inserting the end of the stem into a potato. The bunches should be laid on dry straw, and turned occasionally.

TOMATO MARMALADE.--Take ripe tomatoes in the height of the season; weigh them, and to every pound of tomatoes add one pound of sugar. Put the tomatoes into a large pan or small tub, and scald them with boiling water, so as to make the skin peel off easily; When you have entirely removed the skin, put the tomatoes (without any water) into a preserving kettle, wash them, and add the sugar, with one ounce of powdered ginger to every three pounds of fruit, and the juice of two lemons, the grated rind of three always to every three pounds of fruit. Stir up the whole together, and set it over a moderate fire. Boil it gently for two or three hours; till the whole becomes a thick, smooth mass, skimming it well, and stirring it to the bottom after every skimming. When done, put it warm into jars, and cover tightly. This will be found a very fine sweetmeat.

PICKLED PEARS.--Three pounds of sugar to a pint of vinegar, spice in a bag and boil, then cook the pears in the vinegar till done through.

BOILED PEARS.--Boil pears in water till soft, then add one pound of sugar to three pounds of fruit.

HOW TO PRESERVE WHOLE STRAWBERRIES

PRESERVED TOMATOES--One pound of sugar to one pound of ripe tomatoes boiled down; flavor with lemon. Choose the largest scarlets, or others when not dead ripe.

A WONDERFUL LINIMENT.--Two ounces oil of spike, two ounces origanum, two ounces hemlock, two ounces wormwood, four ounces sweet oil, two ounces spirit of ammonia, two ounces gum camphor, two ounces spirits turpentine. Add one quart strong alcohol. Mix well together, and bottle tight. This is an unequalled horse liniment, and of the best ever made for human ailments such as rheumatism, sprains, etc.

Source: Burroughs' Encyclopedia of Astounding Facts and Useful Information, 1889, by Barkham Burroughs



Letter send to DEP head. Will be sent on to Feds and On Mail list.

I am sending you our forum links where we have been discussing some possible additional hazardous waste that may have been shipped into Howe's and buried some years ago. If so, our concern would be to locate it and remediate the site.

I have studied the approved plan and am disturbed that it addresses little of the groundwater remediation that must occur to give the site a clear bill of health. The focus seems to be on the sludge which is appropriate but we must not forget about the ground water.

Our rumors are that people know where some "hot stuff" was buried at Howe's that is totally unrelated to the sludge remediation. Some of the citizen's are preparing to a "dig" of their own if necessary.

However, I wanted to alert you to this. The entire Howe's plan was developed under conditions appropriate to a cover up of what really is at Howe's. And it has been quite successful. But if the rumors are true about those very hazardous material elsewhere on the property, we have some life threatening possibilities.

Marlinton does not draw its water from the Greenbrier but Lewisburg does. I am contacting Lewisburg to see what they know about this matter.

This stuff may not be leaking yet but may soon start. We could head this off now before it poisons thousands of water users downstream.

I am proposing a full-scale "brownfield" cleanup. I am requesting information as to how we go about getting a thorough investigation of all these allegations. I am sending this out to my mailing list which includes several newspapers so that a record and timeline can be established as to when the DEP was first alerted as to the possible "hot stuff" buried at Howe's.

Please help save our people!

Thanks,
Norman Alderman

I live in Greenbrier Cnty and am concerned to read what you wrote. I know that the Greenbrier river is tested at least 3to4 times where I live as well as neighboring streams. I know of a farm that was fined significantly for disposing of toxic waste on their farm that over the years the barrels rusted and leaked into the water system thus leading to the Greenbrier River. He used the defense that it was stemmed from the ongoing "clean-up" of the shoe factory. Needless to say he lost and had to pay out a large sum of money in fines and clean-up. I Don't use city water but my children are in public school, hence my question is are there not alarm systems that would alert the city if toxins were in the water system? I always thought one of the "perks" of having treated water was the security of knowing that the water was safe to drink. Please continue to post any findings that you may find to be true about Lewisburgs water plant. I admire your investigative skills. I also wish everyone the best of luck in resolving this issue in Poc. Cnty.

DEATH IN THE DRUMS

Frank has a poisonous sludge problem. The PDA and CC are ignoring it. We walked the site with the DEP but nothing has yet been done. We are sending a copy of this paper to Stephanie Timmermeyer and the federal EPA.

I no longer live and work in the Bartow area, but still like to read your site. Your Chromium 6 information was interesting. Your last reader hit upon a topic worth expanding.

The county contracted the water samples at the old Howes site to John Simmons because he knows where not to look. It saves them money that way.

A lot of people know about this. Ask some of the old Howes employees who dug the pits. I don't know what was in the 55 gal-lon drums, but have heard it called the **90 proof stuff**.

Maybe it's not leaching now, but how long does it take for a drum to rust through? Maybe the next big flood will find them down in **Lewisburg's water intake..--Whoo?**

I helped bury some of those drums. Me and some other guy dumped drums into an old pond up by the water treatment plant. He was leaving for another job and showed me the drums from before and how they got covered and how John Simmons wrote the numbers down on a clipboard. I saw maybe half them drums in there.

I remember one drum did not have enough numbers and I had to go and reread them back to him. At least five other guys saw me.

My wife doesn't want me to get in trouble and wants me to keep quiet, but John told us it was OK by the state to dump in there. I say if it was legal dump site, checks the state maps and leave John alone. If wasn't a legal site this old pond would be the first place you should look with your metal detectors.

Just ask John for the maps. He knew where the pond by the water treatment plant was removed. Ask John to take you there and show you the maps.

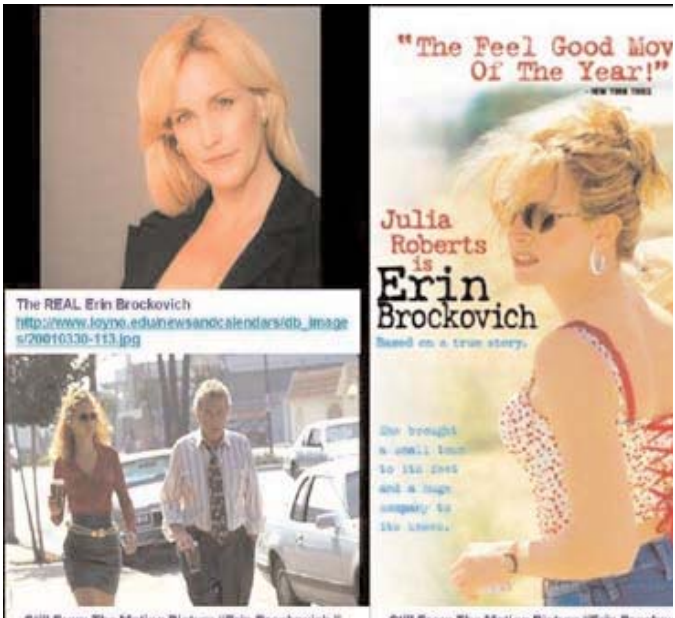
CHROMIUM 6 (used for plating, dyes, pigments, leather tanning, wood preserving)

Chromium 6 has been found at 1,036 of the 1,591 National Priority List sites identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Chromium 6 Related Diseases include Liver Cancer, Kidney Failure, Respiratory Distress, Circulatory Problems, Gastrointestinal Ailments, Reproductive Problems, Brain and Major Organ Cancers.

"Erin Brockovich," the famous Hollywood movie starring Julia Roberts, popularized the caustic and lethal effects of Chromium 6. P.G. & E, the company that is scrutinized in the film, were knowingly using Chromium 6 in their facility even though they knew it was contaminating the drinking water of the surrounding town.

Source: Center for Disease Control and Univ of California Davis



The property in question, the old Howe Leather Plant site. Is owned by the Pocahontas Development Authority and the County Commission. The President of the PDA, Frank Proud, went before the County Commission and did a presentation that he wanted the PDA to be disband and with recommendations that the property be turned over to the Greenbrier Valley Development Authority. Along with the possibility of selling other properties owned by the PDA.

After reading the article in the Pocahontas Times as to what transpired at the last County Commissioners Meeting. This threw up several RED FLAGS.

Did someone from the PDA continue to keep tabs on the cleanup of toxic wastes after John Simmons left? And who was that person(s)? Were there any records (Inspection Reports etc.) kept in relation to the clean up?

Was Interstate Lumber given a clean bill of health that there were no toxic wastes in or around the area of their new building? If yes, who has it on file?

What happened to the contractor who was suppose to clean up the site, and where is he today?

Where did the monies come from? Did the County Commission allocate 100% of the monies for the Toxic waste removal? If Grant monies were applied for and received for this purpose. Can we see the files? If Grant Monies were received, are there records indicating how the Grant monies were utilized? And who has those records.

The PDA seemed to be more interested in having Interstate Lumber build another unit to hire more people, then complete the cleanup of the toxic waste. That's fine, I don't see anything wrong with that. But I feel the toxic waste problem should have been taken care of 100% before any type of construction be performed.

It seems awful strange, as soon as the heat was put on about the chemicals in the old waste ponds and those proposed barrels of toxic waste that everyone says is buried on site. The PDA wants to wash their hands of it.

In conclusion: Lets get the DEP, EPA, Department of National Resources, Waste Water Control, Attorney Generals Office, Federal Government, Trout Unlimited or whoever it takes to get this mess cleaned up. **Somebody is responsible and we need to get to the bottom of it.**

If Walt hadn't made a devil's pact with Howe's, that place would be clean now. The feds can declare it a brownfield and come in and clean it up. I personally believe that it would be a massive operation but think of this, it would provide local jobs during the cleanup.

So why hasn't this been done. Why hasn't Walt worked to get it done! **I believe that Walt is the lynchpin who is holding back the clean up** because he doesn't want to be embarrassed when people find out how bad a deal he made for the county. It would ruin his political career and he knows it.

I went to the courthouse and did some more research. What I found was that Howe's agreed to accept the fiscal responsibility for cleanup but the county commission and PDA assumed control of the situation and apparently never even communicated with Howe's. Howe's is hardly mentioned in the documents at the courthouse which fill one complete file drawer. It is like they never existed.

Why did the county assume the responsibility for the cleanup? This is a mystery. To get the grant money maybe. We have found about \$500,000 worth of grant money mostly from the feds.

What it appears to me is that the county simply let Howe's drop out of the picture. Why? Howe's is not out of the loop yet after 9 years it is as if they don't exist.

Here's what I think: Their was a backdoor arrangement, unwritten, and unrecorded that if Howe's gave the county \$250,000 that they would be conveniently "forgotten." The county would seek federal cleanup grants and leave Howe's alone.

I believe that we have a classic case of misdirection, a magician's trick, if you will. The real problem is not so much the sludge as they groundwater contamination particularly in light of the possibility that transformers and drums of toxic waste from out of state had been buried on the western end far away from the lagoons.

The idea was to focus DEP's attention on the lagoon problem and hope that they would ignore the groundwater problem. This may explain why that after nine years there is no plan in place to remediate the ground water.

The goal was to ensure that DEP never probed the other end of the site and found the toxic waste dump that is reported to be there. Since it was in drums they simply hoped that enough time would pass that it would forever be ignored by DEP and the citizenry.

But now it is time to pay the piper. A group of citizens is rising up and crying foul.

From what is being reported to myself and George Sheets a trench was dug along the river and parallel to the river. The trench was dug as deep as a backhoe could dig (I have even learned the possible name of the person with the backhoe." That would make it about 10 foot deep. Today I learned that the watertable in that field is 8 feet. This means that the barrels and transformers have been buried in two feet of water all this time.

Now remember there is toxic and perhaps corrosive material on the inside of the barrels. There are massive toxins in the groundwater and perhaps corrosives there.

Combined this means that the barrels of toxic waste and perhaps even the transformers have been compromised at this time and may be spewing their fatal filth into the Greenbrier River for Lewisburg folks to drink.--Norman Alderman

THIS IS SERIOUS BUSINESS--WE NEED MORE INFORMATION. THERE IS DEATH IN THE DRUMS.

DYING FOR WATER?

There is a health crisis going on today right beneath your nose. You and nearly every person living in an industrialized country faces daily contact with thousands of dangerous materials both intentionally added and mistakenly found in food, water, air, cleaners, clothing detergents, metal fillings, prescription drugs and so on.

You may hear this list so often it's lost meaning. And don't forget pen ink, broken light bulbs, old mercury thermometers that contain enough to poison an entire lake for generations, paint from old houses, and so on. The list is mind boggling. Toxins shown to cause cancer are everywhere. Now women have a 1 in 3 chance of contracting some form of cancer. Men have a 1 in 2 chance.

Mercury ("silver" fillings, coal production, vaccines), lead (paint) and cadmium (batteries) are the three big ones many already know about. Did you know that perchlorate (rocket fuel), chromium 6 (dyes, pigments), arsenic (rat poison), and chlorine (added to tap water, swimming pools) are commonly found in toxic water?

CHROMIUM 6: AN AIRBORNE DANGER

Potential health effects from chromium exposure are dependent on many factors. These include chemical form, the amount, the length of time the individual was exposed, and whether the chromium was ingested, inhaled, or absorbed through the skin. Reactions and their potential effects are highly dependent on such characteristic traits as age, sex, weight, and health of the individual. Chromium 6 is known to cause cancer in humans when inhaled. The hazards of airborne chromium 6 in the workplace environment have been extensively documented. A number of scientific studies have found elevated rates of lung cancer in workers with occupational exposure to chromium 6 by inhalation.

According to our source Howe's had a local contractor dig a trench and bury both chromium sludge barrels and transformers in it. With this in mind, we found the following on PCB's a dangerous toxin in transformers.

Serious Health Concerns

There are a number of adverse health effects associated with this chemical. Tests on animals show that PCBs can harm reproduction and growth, and can cause skin lesions and tumors. When PCB fluid is partially burned-as it may be in a transformer fire-the PCB fluid produces by-products, which include polychlorinated dibenzodioxin and polychlorinated dibenzofurans, that are much more toxic than the PCBs themselves. Tests on rats show that furans can cause anemia and other blood problems. Dioxin is associated with a number of health risks, and has been shown to cause cancer of the liver, mouth, adrenal gland, and lungs in laboratory animals.



The toxicity of PCBs was dramatically illustrated in 1968 when over 1600 people in Japan were poisoned by cooking oil contaminated with PCBs from a heat transfer unit. The contaminating oil likely contained furans and dioxins, compounds generally more toxic than PCBs themselves. The ensuing illnesses became known as "Yusho" (rice oil disease).

PCBs can be released into the general environment from poorly maintained toxic waste sites; by illegal or improper dumping of PCB wastes, such as transformer fluids; through leaks or fugitive emissions from electrical transformers containing PCBs; and by disposal of PCB-containing consumer products in municipal landfills [2]. PCBs have been found in at least 271 of 1177 hazardous waste sites on the EPA National Priorities List [2]. Of the 1.25 billion pounds of PCBs produced in this country since 1929, about 450 million pounds have found their way into the environment [2]. The chemical stability of these synthetic compounds accounts for their persistence in the environment. Another important reason for their persistence is their resistance to biodegradation. Low levels of PCBs can be found throughout the world. PCBs in water or on soil surfaces evaporate and return to earth by rainfall or settling of dust particles. Because PCBs strongly adsorb to soil particles, significant leaching from soil and translocation to plants do not occur [2]. Although PCBs are widespread in the aquatic environment, their low water solubility helps to prevent high concentrations in drinking water supplies [2].

Today PCBs are found mainly in transformers and capacitors manufactured before the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) banned the production of PCBs in 1977, and although PCBs are no longer manufactured in the United States, the greatest potential for exposure to PCBs still occurs in the workplace [2]. However, nonoccupational exposures have also occurred and are of more concern to the general public. The public has encountered PCBs through illegal roadside dumping of hazardous waste oils and through inhalation of smoke and soot from transformer or capacitor fires [2]. When PCBs are burned, they can produce dioxins and furans, placing smoke-inhalation victims at increased risk of exposure to these toxic compounds. Fetuses and neonates are potentially more sensitive to PCBs than adults because their livers are less developed and unable to metabolize and excrete the PCBs.

Furthermore, PCBs accumulate in breast milk, so nursing infants are at additional risk. Other populations potentially more sensitive to PCBs are persons with compromised liver functioning, including alcoholics or those with congenital disorders such as Gilbert's syndrome, and persons with liver infections, such as hepatitis B. Persons taking medications potentially toxic to the liver may also be at increased risk [2].

Attention Durbin Residents: There are five old transformers, some with PCB's in an unsecured location at Howe's. The EPA/DEP has known about this since August but has done nothing to secure them. The County Commissioners are ignoring the problem and the PDA denies that it is responsible. Frank Proud, the president of the PDA, denies any responsibility.

Settlement reached in PCB contamination in Raleigh October 2005

U.S. Water News Online

RALEIGH, N.C. -- A transformer company that spilled industrial chemicals, polluting Lake Crabtree, will share the cost of cleaning up the site with Progress Energy and two other companies.

The question of cleaning up the lake itself and other waterways remains unsettled.

The legal settlement, approved by the U.S. Department of Justice, calls for Ward Transformer and the other parties to hire a contractor to remove contaminated soil from the 11-acre industrial site near Raleigh-Durham International Airport.

The major contaminant is polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, a class of toxic chemicals that were added to transformers as coolants until Congress banned them in 1979.

Ward handled PCB-laced oil drained from transformers in the 1960s and 1970s, leading to contamination of the site and nearby creeks.

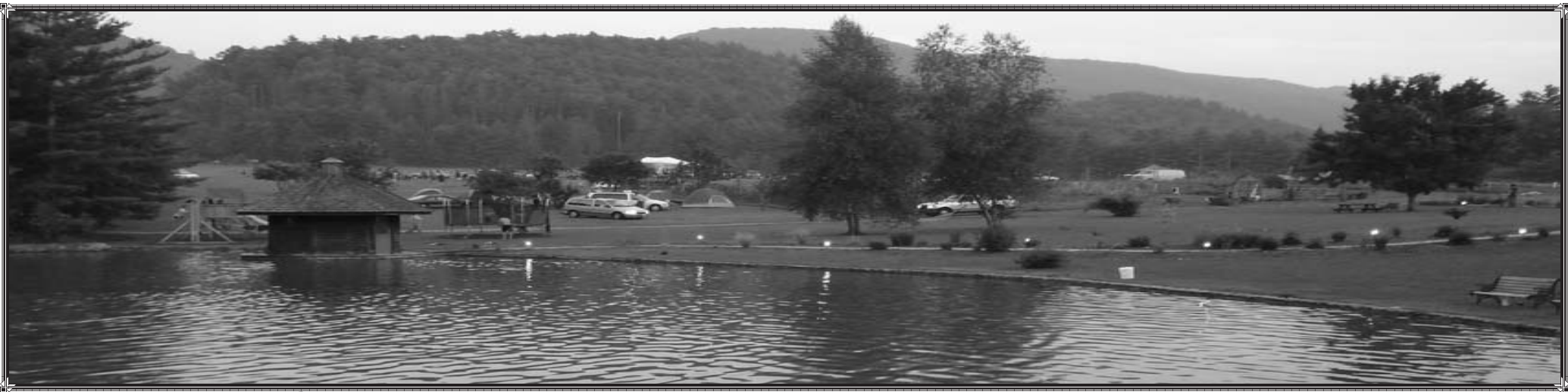
Ward has claimed it couldn't afford to clean up the high levels of contamination, which the Environmental Protection Agency first discovered in the late 1970s. The contamination migrated downstream in the years since, a situation that The News & Observer of Raleigh reported on in July.

The agreement requires the companies to provide \$5.4 million to cover the cleanup cost and repay about \$725,000 of EPA's past costs. It does not specify the share that each will provide.

What is a PCB Transformer?

A PCB Transformer is a transformer that contains PCBs at concentrations greater than 500 parts per million (ppm). Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were used in electrical transformers because of their useful quality as being a fire retardant. These transformers were manufactured between 1929 and 1977. The majority of these PCB Transformers were installed in apartments, residential and commercial buildings, industrial facilities, campuses, and shopping centers constructed before 1978.

Editor's Note: We have contacted the Federal EPA representative Scot Rice who has indicated that they are contacting the county commission regarding the exposed transformers. We will let you know as soon as we find out what they are doing. We do know that the State considers them to be a problem.



Congratulations to our neighbors, the Zendik Family, for a great festival. Please do it again next



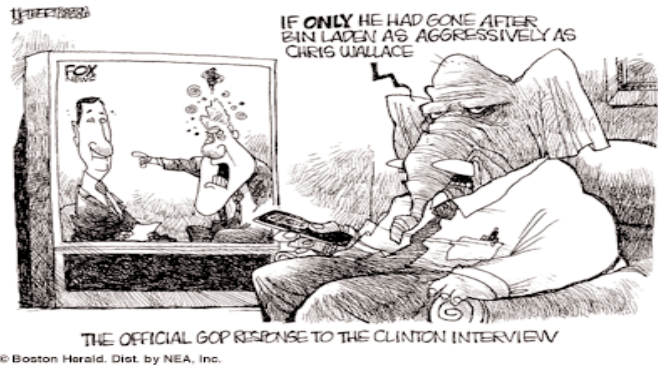
Don't Hunt With Dick Cheney Song Parody
(Sing to "On Top Of Old Smokey") By Madeleine Begun Kane

Don't hunt with Dick Cheney.
You might end up dead.
He'll aim for your torso,
Or even your head.

He'll claim it's a quail shoot,
But that's just a front.
It really is humans
That Dick likes to hunt.

He might say he's sorry
And even act blue.
But that's just cause Cheney
Don't want to be sued.

So don't try to lobby
The VEEP on a hunt.
Cause shots meant for wildlife,
You're sure to confront.



OUTBREAK OF NEO-COLI THREATENS THE WORLD
By Don Davis

While recent news reports have focused on the problems with spinach infected by E. Coli, the World Health Organization has issued an urgent alert, warning of the grave dangers posed by an outbreak of Neo-Coli — the shorthand name for “Neo-Con Lies and World Domination.”

Unlike E. Coli, a food-borne illness which originates on farms, the Neo-Coli bacteria is considered a skewed-based disease, and emanates from chicken-hawks who usually occupy a large white house or pentagonal-shaped building. However, what both strains have in common is their core component: manure.

Also known as Cheneybacterius, or Bushococcus:43, the Neo-Coli bacteria is much more dangerous than E. Coli, which usually causes only limited fatalities. Neo-Coli is particularly rampant in the Middle East, and causes massive cases of Die-arrhea, abdominal clamps, and the spread of Shiite-itis.

While E. Coli typically affects products like spinach, Neo-Coli depends for its survival on “Spin-ish.” Also, unlike most products infected with E. Coli, which are inadvertently ingested, Neo-Coli is invariably shoved down the victim’s throat.

Tipping

There seems to have been a lot of talk about restaurants lately. I thought it might be interesting for wannabee waiters/waitresses to hear what criteria local restaurant customers have for deciding who they'll tip--Eccentric Backwoods Recluse

As a former waitress with catering and banquet experience, I know how hard of a job waitressing can be and therefore I almost always tip. How much I tip depends on certain criteria, though....



If my waitress hands me my drink by placing her thumb on the inside of the cup near the rim or by grasping it at the rim with her whole hand—I knock off some silver from the tip total. The proper way to hand a customer their drink is to grasp the glass in the center, like one would hold it to drink from themselves.

If my waitress does not return to the table to ask if everything is to our satisfaction and/or does not return to ask if any of my party would care for desert before presenting us with the check—I knock off some silver from the tip total. Remember, if your customer bases the amount tipped on 15% of the bill, the bill is higher if dessert is added so it's in your best interest to ask.

If my waitress does not have a reasonably pleasant attitude and/or a neat and professional appearance (skin tight blue jeans that barely cover what they're suppose to cover and low-cut shirts do not qualify as neat or professional by my standards)--I knock off some silver from the tip total.



If my waitress is more interested in carrying on with the male co-workers or sitting around yakking with her girlfriends than she is in waitressing—I knock off some silver from the tip total.

Hope that helps, it's really not that hard to earn good wages in tips—but the key word there is “earn.” You aren't automatically entitled to a tip, or a decent one at that, but I've found that if your customers feel you're making every effort possible to give them good, friendly service most folks will tip well.--;)

The proper amount to tip someone who has done an outstanding job is 20%, not fifteen. That is a common misconception. I have been in the business for sixteen years and that has never changed. Your criteria for tipping is good though. A good outline to follow, although you also must take into account how busy the server is. Food quality should not be taken out on the server because they didn't cook the food. If there is a problem with food, the manager should be notified and you could possibly receive a discount or free dessert for the trouble. I always tip twenty percent. I've hosted, waited tables, bartended, washed dishes, cooked, and managed. You must understand these people are only making 2.13 an hour.
Texas Teacher

I also used to wait tables when I was in high school...and afterwards at times. I remember how my feet and back ached even though I was young. I also remember how much I needed the tips. And, everyone I served was not pleasant and easy to please, although most of the time they were. So, therefore I tip 20% if the service is good, 15% if only fair. One has to "work" very hard at being a poor server for me not to tip at all. I liked the method of Eccentric Backwoods Recluse, but that seems like a lot of calculation to be doing during dinner. But, if it works for you.....jus thinkin

Il generally always leave a tip, the amount depends on the service. I have worked in customer service many years (which is what a waitress or waiter does), and I expect at the least to be greeted by a smile and/or kind word. A waitress/waiter can be extremely busy and take forever to get to me, but if they are pleasant to me and whoever is with me, and smile, I don't hold the waiting against them. There are, however a couple things that I will reduce tips for, like
1. touching the edge of a glass or cup - or even a straw - when refilling with a beverage (a cup or glass that has been drank out of by a patron should never be touched by the coffee pot or tea pitcher, etc when refilling a drink; after that practice is repeated, there are germs being spread),2. a dish that is dirty from the kitchen, and
3. not coming back to check on everything and see if anything else is needed.

The only thing that would keep me from leaving a tip at all is total rudeness, or a combination of the above reasons to reduce. It has to be bad for me to leave no tip.

the only thing I have to say is waitressing is a hard job I know done it for many many years and I think the business should pay more than \$2.00 or \$2.35 per hour it is a hard job the place makes the money and you do the work you wait the tables get the drinks get the salads and some times cook the food than take the food to the people than most of the times do the dishes and for what \$2.00 an hour so next time maybe you will know why they look sour--From A Distance

An average good personality waitress can make as much as \$80.00 a night in tips. Added to their \$3.00 an hour pay. Thats \$500.00 a week. An average cook makes \$7.00 a hour. Thats \$280.00 a week. I think tipping is a good thing. If they work hard for you then they deserve you to tip them well. Do you not think that if a waitress makes \$5.85 a hour and didn't receive tips they would treat you really good??? I personally don't think so!--;)

In the Summer the average server makes about \$100 dollars a day (at Snowshoe) in the winter they average around \$200 to \$250. When I was serving a few years back I had one table that left me \$500. I walked with close to \$800 that night. At 2.13 an hour servers don't get a paycheck. It all goes to taxes and they usually end up having to pay a ****load come tax season.
!!!!!!!

I also used to wait tables when I was in high school...and afterwards at times. I remember how my feet and back ached even though I was young. I also remember how much I needed the tips. And, everyone I served was not pleasant and easy to please, although most of the time they were. So, therefore I tip 20% if the service is good, 15% if only fair. One has to "work" very hard at being a poor server for me not to tip at all. I liked the method of Eccentric Backwoods Recluse, but that seems like a lot of calculation to be doing during dinner. But, if it works for you.....jus thinkin

I can forgive some not so good food if the service is decent. If the waitress is really busy I do take into account that she may not have time to get back to check about dessert. If the place is really swamped and the waitress is running herself to death I always leave a tip regardless if she made it back to check my table or not. A person can only do so much, no matter how good they are. Now if a place only has two or three tables and I get lousy service then they won't get anything. If they walk up to my table the first time and don't smile or speak, I can just about guess what kind of service I will get and usually I am not wrong. Some of them just can't seem to understand that their customer pays their paycheck/tip. It doesn't take any more time to smile and be friendly than it does to act like they have sucked on lemons all day!--Eccentric Backwoods Recluse

20% may be the standard here, but I worked out of state and it was 15% for as long as I can remember. I worked in an all buffet restaurant (not a chain) and the general rule of thumb was that you averaged a dollar a person. Serve 75 people, make \$75 or more, usually. So, because I am not in the habit of frequenting “high class” eateries and ordering filet mignon, I typically start off planning on a dollar per person in my party. Knocking a quarter off here or there (or adding a few for a job well done) doesn't require any complex math formulas...which is a good thing since mathematics isn't one of my strong points.

I generally always leave a tip, the amount depends on the service. I have worked in customer service many years (which is what a waitress or waiter does), and I expect at the least to be greeted by a smile and/or kind word. A waitress/waiter can be extremely busy and take forever to get to me, but if they are pleasant to me and whoever is with me, and smile, I don't hold the waiting against them. There are, however a couple things that I will reduce tips for, like
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2. a dish that is dirty from the kitchen, and
3. not coming back to check on everything and see if anything else is needed.

My advice to someone depending on tips for income is to always be pleasant, even when you're rushed or don't feel like it, make sure everything is clean - including the serving of food and beverages, and show that you care that the patrons are receiving good service. I have given extra for good service, or at least a showing of trying to give good service. Apologies for delays go a long way! me

know done it for many many years and I think the business should pay more than \$2.00 or \$2.35 per hour it is a hard job the place makes the money and you do the work you wait the tables get the drinks get the salads and some times cook the food than take the food to the people than most of the times do the dishes and for what \$2.00 an hour so next time maybe you will know why they look sour
From A Distance

If you are a waitress you do not have to wash dishes clean the floors all you have to do is clean your work area. Be kind and treat your customers with Respect because they are your paycheck. If your employer tries to make you clean and wash dishes that is against the law and they know it.--to from a distant

I have also been a waitress for several years on and off. It is a hard job, but I have done harder. If it is something that you like I think that it comes easy to you. I don't think there is any excuse for any waitress to not make it back to make sure that your meal is okay, that your drink is not full, or if you would like dessert or not. I have worked at Snowshoe in the busiest seasons, and I know that you are given a section with no more than 6 tables. If a waitress cannot handle that, then they are in the wrong business. And as far as the \$2.13 an hour, I know that it sounds like nothing, but I would start work at 11:00 a.m. and work a double shift until 10:00 p.m., now that is not counting the set up or the clean up afterwards, but the point is that is only an 11 hour shift and it was nothing to walk out with anywhere from 250.00 - 500.00 on a weekend. With my calculations even at your lowest amount of 250.00 that is a little less than 25.00 per hour and then 2.13. What other job do you find that pays 27.00 per hour without a college education??!! The income is variable and undependable, but wonderful while you are getting it. However, I have always said you work for what you get. If I get a waitress that does nothing and has no ambition about him/her, they will be lucky on their 10%. If they are good, I don't count out right at 20%, sometimes it is more than that. A waitress makes good money, but I think they should have to work for it.--**Charlotte Martin**



I agree with the posters who want a waitress to be clean and professional as they serve. I don't want a waitress touching the rim of a glass or cup that I am going to be drinking out of or pouring coffee and having the decanter touch my cup. I also want good fresh coffee when I order it. I want a waitress to be friendly and professional. One time few years ago, my husband and I were traveling to Georgia and we stopped at a Waffle House. We ordered coffee and breakfast. The waitress was friendly and set our cups down carefully. When the coffee cooled enough, I took a drink and it was obvious it was old. I politely asked the waitress if she could make some fresh coffee and give us some fresh coffee. Her attitude changed drastically! She made the coffee, poured out what we had and poured fresh coffee into the same cups and SLAMMED them down on our table. Coffee spilled, she didn't even clean it up. When we were ready to leave, my husband laid down a tip, I picked it up and said "She's not getting a tip from us!" and put the money in my pocket.

If someone wants to make good tips waitressing, be friendly, be professional, and serve in a manner you would want to be served in.--**Linda Gibb**

I think around the county 15% is the normal tip. In my travels you don't usually go to 20% till you get to much bigger cities or very fancy restaurants.

Keeping my beverage glass filled is very important. I drink a lot of iced tea or diet coke with a meal & I always forewarn a waitperson of that fact. If they totally ignore that fact their tip is reduced. Then again if a waitperson goes above & beyond their duty to serve me I increase their tip. Waitpersons with earrings or whatever in their eyebrow, lip or any place other than an ear are NOT very professional looking.--;)

Linda, no disrespect, but the correct amount to tip does not change with the area or region you are in. The correct amount to tip is 20% in any restaurant in any town, anywhere. That is as long as you receive good service. There are actually books written on this, if you can believe it! America is also one of a few few countries that pay their servers in "tips." In most countries, namely Australia, France, Germany, and Russia, servers are paid by the hour and very rarely receive any tips. This is why "foreign dinner goers" get a bad rap in American restaurants. Because in their countries they don't have to tip. ;)

Doing twenty percent also makes it a little easier to calculate the tip in you r head. It's basically one dollar for every five you spend or two dollars for every ten. The best way to figure this out is to take the first number of your total and multiply it by two. Therefore a 70.00 bill should have a tip of 14.00. A 75.00 bill should have a tip of 15.00. If the bill exceeds 100.00 then you should then take the first TWO numbers and multiply them by two.--;)

I agree with Linda Gibb: Just keep the fat boy's glass filled and a good tip will result. I try to leave at least 15%. My wife requires me to give \$5.00 when it is one of her former students. **Norman Alderman**

To:),
Where in the world do you live? a \$70.00 bill in Pocahontas County for dinner? Well maybe if I ate at the Red Fox. An average bill in most of PC would be about \$30.00 for 2 people & tht's pushing it.

Just like wages, tips do vary in different parts of the country. If you go to big time cities you would be expected to pay a lot more than 20%.--**My Thoughts!!**

I have been to Europe a couple of times and for the most part, waitstaff over there are paid by the restaurant owner and tipping by customers is not expected. However, because the waitstaff isn't dependant upon the customer for tips, service is slow, rude, and in general not as good as the USA. I would rather tip someone and get nice, pleasant, quick service.--My Thoughts!!

An average good personality waitress can make as much as \$80.00 a night in tips. Added to their \$3.00 an hour pay. Thats \$500.00 a week. An average cook makes \$7.00 a hour. Thats \$280.00 a week. I think tipping is a good thing. If they work hard for you then they deserve you to tip them well. Do you not think that if a waitress makes \$5.85 a hour and didn't receive tips they would treat you really good??? I personally don't think so!--;)



In the Summer the average server makes about \$100 dollars a day (at Snowshoe) in the winter they average around \$200 to \$250. When I was serving a few years back I had one table that left me \$500. I walked with close to \$800 that night. At 2.13 an hour servers don't get a paycheck. It all goes to taxes and they usually end up having to pay a ****load come tax season.--!!!!////

P.S.- I know many people who have made careers out of being servers and bartenders and they live quite comfortably some even quite extravagantly. In my experience I have seen and heard people talking about how serving tables, bartending etc are not "kosher" jobs and that these people should go back to school and learn a real profession. I took my experience in the food and Beverage industry AS school and made it into career. I have hosted, bussed, washed dishes, been on the line, bartended and eventually managed. It's so wonderful to have a career where you meet new people everyday, make new friends and have a whole group of people that are like a second family to you! I love it!!!--supervisor

Sorry, in the first post I meant 8-10% of your SALES--;)

Just read this on "bitterwaitress.com" It's a funny website where angry bartenders, waiters, bussers etc vent their anger over rude nontipping customers. Thought it was a pretty good explanation of things:

For those who do not feel the need to tip properly (20% MINIMUM), **just a thought...**

To remove the gratuity aspect from this country's restaurant culture would immediately translate into a much higher price per plate for the restaurant guest as well as far poorer service. This is due to the fact that most waitstaff are paid at or well below minimum wage plus the tips which make this profession economically viable. Without



said tips, restaurant managers would have to pay far more per hour in order to keep a professional waitstaff. "OK", so you, the bad tipper, say, "this is how its done in many other countries." Right, but have you ever tried to get in and out of a full-service restaurant during a lunch hour in, for example, Europe? Of course not, because you all know that service outside the US, albeit skilled and swanky, takes FOREVER. The reason why restaurant service is so notoriously slow in other countries is because no one is going to run, sweat and put up with as much ***** with a smile if they are being paid the same amount as they would if they were slow, surly and dismissive, as often they are.

Restaurant guests ought to be happy for our tip-based

service culture. Only in this country do waitstaff have to satisfy your every whim and desire CHEERFULLY with the fear of not being paid hanging over their heads if they do not. In truth, I've always said that although I work AT a restaurant, I work FOR my guests as it is my guests pay me the money which makes waiting worthwhile, NOT the restaurant owner, who pays me \$2.13/hour. Keep in mind then that waitstaff are practically willing to bend over backward for you, the guest. All that we ask in return is to be treated with dignity and paid properly for our service.

Absolutely astounding! I saw job postings at the unemployment office which advertised at waitress job at \$2.13 per hour plus tips.

Now that is about as low down as you get. Please tip waitresses well.

To My Thoughts!!,
I no NOT leave 10% tips!! I leave at least 15% & depending on the service I get sometimes 20 or more %.
I do Not demand from a waitperson I simply tell them that I drink a lot of beverage with a meal & if at all possible to keep them from running their legs off, could they please leave a pitcher of tea on our table.

I ate at the Red Fox a good bit when it was open & if you don't have drinks, 2 people can eat for under \$70.00. Yes there is only the hubby & I. I was not considering kids in the picture at all. Most Pocahontas countians with kids couldn't afford to eat at Red Fox.

There are a few good waitpersons around the Marlinton area & these receive a good tip from us. Fact is I've overheard waitpersons arguing with each other on who was going to serve us because we tip good. Not the other way around!! So before you come on here accusing me of being a tightwad get your facts straight!!!

Now then, maybe you're one of the crappier waitpersons. One that never comes back to see if I need anything else after they serve me my food? Or one that acts like I should be honored that you are taking the time from chatting with your friends to wait on me? Just remember, your tip depends on the service you give & a smile goes a long way!--:)

If you've ever worked in the hospitality industry, waiting tables, tending bar, carrying luggage, etc., you've probably depended on tips from your customers to make ends meet. Many people who haven't worked in this industry don't realize that servers, guides, drivers, and others who help make our dining, traveling, and other service experiences nicer, sometimes aren't paid even minimum wage by their employers. They depend on the gratuities that their customers give them for good service and friendly help. Although tipping is a multi-billion dollar industry, it isn't a globally consistent phenomenon. If you're traveling to another country, you'd better read up on its tipping customs or you may end up humiliating your waiter or angering your valet!



A tip, or gratuity, is a small amount of money given voluntarily as a token of appreciation for a service rendered. According to Webster's Dictionary, the word "tip" is also considered by many to be an acronym: T.I.P. - "To Insure Promptness" or "To Insure Prompt" service. We tip our servers as a way of thanking them for good service. We might also leave a very low tip, or no tip at all, as a signal that the service was terrible.

What Makes Us Tip More or Less?

Whether or not we tip depends a lot on the service received, as well as whether or not we think we'll be returning to the same establishment. Sometimes we leave tips simply because it is expected -- that and the fact that we don't want to appear to be cheap to our dining companions by "stifling" the server. Believe it or not, a lot of research has gone into why we tip and what makes us tip more or less for similar service. Tipping is not always simply a sign of a job well done.



· Touching - Waiters experienced a tip increase from 11.8 percent to 14.8 percent of the check total when they briefly touched the shoulder of the customer. Both men and women left higher tips when touched, and although younger customers increased their tip amount more, all ages increased the tip by some amount.

· Squatting - Two studies showed that waiters who squatted next to the table when taking orders and talking with customers increased their tips from 14.9 percent of the bill to 17.5 percent of the bill in one study, and from 12 percent to 15 percent in another study. Apparently, the eye contact and closer interaction creates a more intimate connection and makes us want to give the server more money.

Giving candy - A study that involved giving customers a piece of candy with their bill showed an increase in tip percentage from 15.1 percent to 17.8 percent. Another study in which servers gave each customer two pieces of candy with the bill increased the tip from 19 percent to 21.6 percent of the bill. Still another study showed that the way the server gave the customer the candy had the largest impact on the increase of the tip: This study had the server initially give each member of the customer's party one piece of candy and then "spontaneously" offer a second piece of candy. This method increased the tip to 23 percent of the bill!--lffy



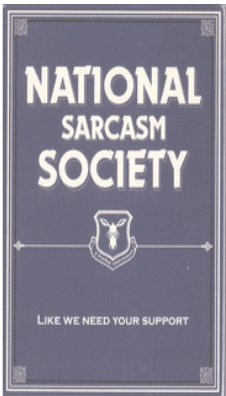
Don't forget to TIP your barber/hairdresser..... and if you golf, you bag handler. There are other people than waitresses that work for TIPs. I even TIP at fast food restaurants if the people are very friendly.--:)



Bush: 'History Cannot Judge Me If I End It Soon'

September 7, 2006 | Issue 42•36

WASHINGTON, DC—Despite, or perhaps because of, rising fuel prices, the unpopularity of the U.S. presence in Iraq, and mounting legal problems surrounding his administration, President Bush informed his Cabinet Monday that he is unworried about his place in history, White House sources said. "I'm telling you, pretty soon some things are going to develop so that I won't have history to worry about any longer," Bush said. "History may be written by the winners, but it doesn't get written at all if all of human language is lost in, say, fire storms, right? So I can still get off the hook." Although troubles faced by his presidency have been relatively recent, sources said they believed Bush's plan had been put into motion long before he had even taken office.



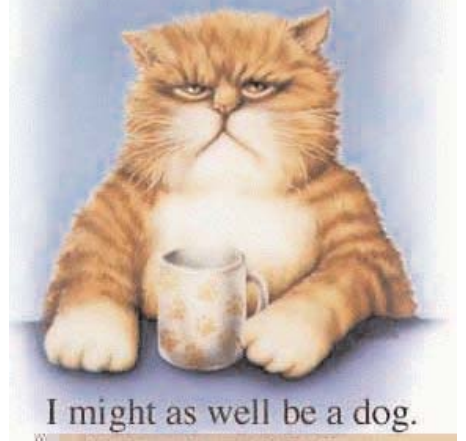
I used to have an open mind but my brains kept falling out.

Ban toilet cleaner- Germs have feelings too!

Isn't it amazing how pets sometimes get to looking like their owners. Here is one of the Mayor of Beaver Creek's Bear Dogs.



Before my morning coffee...



I might as well be a dog.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY COMMISSION
900 TENTH AVENUE
MARLINTON, WEST VIRGINIA 24954

I, JOEL S. CALLISON, County Commissioner of Pocahontas County, West Virginia, agree to accept the salary increase set forth by the Legislature in its amendment and re-enactment of sections one and four of article seven, chapter seven of the West Virginia Code, during its regular session in the year 2006. I accept this salary increase in acknowledgment of the cost-of-living increases that have taken place since the last salary increase became effective in 2002, and in recognition of the additional duties which have been imposed on my office since that time, and with the full acknowledgement of the Pocahontas County Commission, which has provided for the inclusion of said increase in its 2006-2007 budget herewith submitted to the West Virginia State Auditor for approval. The salary increase so provided is effective on and after July 1, 2006.

This the 27th day of March, 2006.

Joel S. Callison
JOEL S. CALLISON

COPY

And you thought your three county commissioners were self-sacrificing, frugal guardians of your tax dollar.

...All three signed a copy of the document on the left.



All three county commissioners signed the above and submitted it to the state tax department this year so that they would get a raise. As it turns out, it was unnecessary to do so because the county went up a classification and they would have gotten the raise anyway. But there is nothing like covering yourself just in case!

"It isn't pollution that's harming the environment. It's the impurities in our air and water that are doing it."-- Vice President Al Gore

Money Isn't Everything...



It can buy a bed - but not sleep
It can buy a clock - but not time
It can buy you a book - but not knowledge
It can buy you a position - but not respect
It can buy you medicine - but not health
It can buy you blood - but not life

So you see, money isn't everything, and it often causes pain and suffering. I tell you all this because I am your friend, and as your friend I want to take away your pain and suffering...
So send me all your money and I will suffer for you.



The Pocahontas Commentator published by
Norman Alderman, HC 82, Box 223a
Marlinton, WV 24954 304-799-7374

(CBS) Just about everyone knows that under a process called eminent domain, the government can (and does) seize private property for public use - to build a road, a school or a courthouse.

But did you know the government can also seize your land for private use if they can prove that doing it will serve what's called "the public good"?

Cities across the country have been using eminent domain to force people off their land, so private developers can build more expensive homes and offices that will pay more in property taxes than the buildings they're replacing.

Under eminent domain, the government buys your property, paying you what's determined to be fair market value.

But now, people who don't want to sell their homes at any price - just to see their land go to another private owner - are fighting,

Stop Eminent Domain Now



"Well no wonder why they're more productive than us!"

State-Local Tax Burdens, Calendar Year 2005
Rank State/Local taxes as % of per capita income (CNN)

	U.S. average	10.10%
1	Maine	13.00%
2	New York	12.00%
3	Hawaii	11.50%
4	Rhode Island	11.40%
5	Wisconsin	11.40%
6	Vermont	11.10%
7	Ohio	11.00%
8	Nebraska	10.90%
9	Utah	10.90%
10	Minnesota	10.70%
11	Arkansas	10.50%
12	Connecticut	10.50%
13	West Virginia	10.50%

The Tax Foundation, a policy research group, estimated the average taxpayer's total state and local tax burden for 2005 in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. That burden reflects what residents pay in state and local income taxes, property taxes, sales taxes, luxury taxes and fuel taxes, among others. States below are ranked from least to most tax friendly.

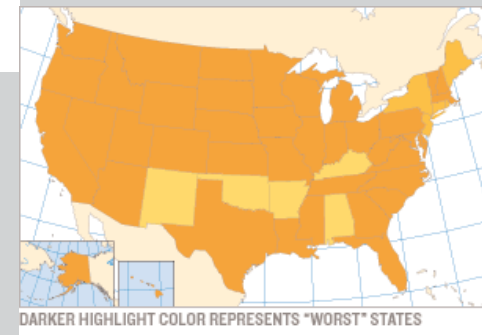
The state/local tax burden reflects what a state and its local governments collect as a percentage of per capita income. So, for example, with a state/local tax burden of 10.4 percent, the state of New Jersey and its local governments get about a tenth of what its residents make per capita.

Of course, if you live in the Garden State your personal tax burden may be higher or lower. Much will depend, as it would in any state, on whether you own your home, where in the state you live, how much you make and the source of your income.

Lowest Median Income in Dark Color



Five Worst States for Property Taxes.



Lowest Median Income in the Nation

United States national average (\$44,473)

West Virginia 51 32,589 -11,884

Anyone ever heard of the saying "Champagne taste with a beer pocketbook" Well thats WV.



"You should check your e-mails more often. I fired you over three weeks ago."

I have bad and very bad news

Doctor: I have some bad news and some very bad news.

Patient: Well, might as well give me the bad news first.

Doctor: The lab called with your test results. They said you have 24 hours to live.

Patient: 24 hours! That's terrible! What could be worse? What's the very bad news?

Doctor: I've been trying to reach you since yesterday.

Build It On Their Own Land

Polluting Our Community

**640,000 Out-of-State
Visitors will travel to
Snowshoe this year
Polluting Our Local Ecosystem
With Each and Every Flush!**

Phone Bill Rock, Gen. Manager of Snowshoe at 572-5990 and tell him Snowshoe should build their own sewer system on their own land, with their own money.

Phone WV DEP at 800-6543-5227 and tell them to stop allowing Snowshoe's present sewer system to be out of compliance with state code.

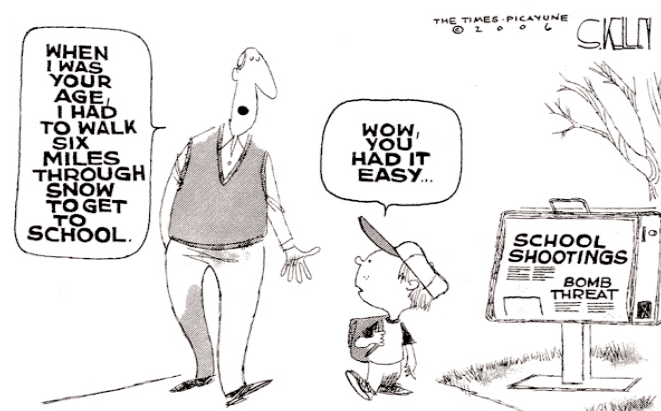
Phone your county commissioners (Reta Griffith at 799-4523 or James Carpenter at 456-4662) and tell them--"**No eminent domain for a Snowshoe sewer system.**"

Insist that the county commission require a building moratorium at Snowshoe until their sewage problems are solved.

Eminent Domain is the Tool of the Devil to Seize the Private Property of Citizens. Once it could only be taken for a public purpose such as a road or a park. But today that definition no longer holds. The Supreme Court has ruled that private property can be seized if a person with more money or means can do more with it than the original owner. The Commentator calls for a six year moratorium on the use of eminent domain for any reason.

Accept nothing less!

Please post this last page of the Commentator in your window so that everyone will know where you stand!



If you have hiccups that just won't go away, massage your ear lobes.

The man who played the voice of bugs bunny was allergic to carrots.

Dolly Parton once lost a Dolly Parton look-alike contest.

More people are killed annually by donkeys than die in air crashes.

Sandusky, Ohio- A man was charged with negligent assault after he shot his wife's hat thinking it was a rat. The hat was on his wife's head at the time. The same man had previously shot himself in the foot while trying to shoot a rat.

Australia- A man was diagnosed with lead poisoning after he ate three feet of electrical cable a day. He said, "It had a sweet and pleasant taste, especially near the center."